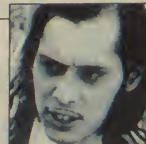


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Trashy but true
'Divine Trash' shows
John Waters' early career.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 6 • 10 February 2000

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 28 years

Armed robbers storm Castro streets

by Katie Szymanski

Most people think of the Castro as a safe haven, a place where they can let their guard down and enjoy the unpredictability of the streets and the crowds. But a series of recent armed street robberies in the neighborhood may be cause to re-evaluate carefree procedures. Since January 26, according to police, there have been six armed robberies in the vicinity of 19th Street and Castro, a busy strip that remains populated throughout the evenings and is seemingly an unlikely place to be cornered with a gun.

With the exception of one armed robbery at 16th and Church streets last week, all of the incidents appear to involve the same group of suspects, described as Asian males in their 20s, about 5 feet 8 inches tall, wearing dark puffy jackets. Their identities are unknown and there is no reason to believe they are gang members, according to an inspector in the San Francisco Police Department's robbery division.

The first incident was reported Wednesday, January 26, at 19th and Hartford streets, at 9:10 p.m. A man who was walking home was suddenly surrounded by two other men who demanded his wallet. When he hesitated, one of the suspects pulled a gun from his waistband and placed it on the man's temple. The suspects made off with about \$14 and a bag of gym clothes.

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Bradley comes to SF

by Cynthia Laird

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley brought his "It Can Happen" campaign championing health care reform and inclusion to San Francisco last Thursday, February 3 as over 1,000 people braved pouring rain to hear him speak at a downtown restaurant near the Ferry Building.

The former New Jersey senator, who came in a close second to Vice President Al Gore in last Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, also picked up the endorsement of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club and his campaign opened an office in the Castro on Monday, February 7.

During last week's campaign stop at Gabiano's Restaurant, Bradley was introduced by several local and state leaders, including San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, Supervisor Michael Yaki, former Mayor Frank Jordan, state Senators Jackie Speier (D-San Francisco/San Mateo) and John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara), and Congressman George Miller (D-Martinez).

"Bill Bradley is going to lead the revolution on health care and education. Bill Bradley is not a man of duplicity—he never said he invented the Internet," said Ammiano, referring to Gore's famous misstatement.

When Bradley took the stage after numerous references to basketball, the former New York Knicks player spoke of his vision for a better America. "What is your dream?" he asked before recalling the sweeping Social Security and Medicare programs implemented by former Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt



Bill Bradley greets Supervisor Tom Ammiano last Thursday as state Senator Jackie Speier looks on.

and Lyndon Johnson. "I see them taking bold action; they were willing to dream.

"I'm not willing to settle for anything less than eliminating child poverty, than getting a qualified teacher in every classroom, than

registering and licensing of all handguns, and the day-to-day actions to push humanity to get to a place where, as Toni Morrison says, race exists but it doesn't matter,"

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SFAF, Horizons give \$105K to help fight Knight initiative

by Terry Beswick

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation recently sent two checks totaling \$55,000 to the campaign to defeat the Knight initiative, Proposition 22 on the March 7 presidential primary ballot. Officially called the Limit on Marriages initiative, the measure would ban recognition of same-sex marriages in California if they are legally performed in another state.

Meanwhile, the Horizons Foundation, a gay and lesbian philanthropic organization, donated \$50,000 to No on Knight on Tuesday, February 8. Previously, Horizons had made a \$75,000 in-kind contribution to the campaign, in the form of extensive public opinion polls that were used in the development of No on Knight's statewide campaign strategy. They were the Horizons Foundation's first-ever donations to a political campaign.

The two groups' contributions were made in response to increasingly urgent appeals from the No on Knight/Proposition 22 campaign to help them buy television time to get commercials on the air.

"T.V. air time is selling fast and furious because of Bradley, Gore, McCain, Bush, and the insurance companies," said No on Knight campaign manager Mike Marshall, who says the most helpful way for people to make contributions is with their credit cards over

the website (www.NoOnKnight.org).

As the campaign goes into its final month, Marshall says he is spending most of his time begging and borrowing money, and spending it faster than it comes in. "I wired in \$500,000 [for airtime] today, and we're hoping to wire in another \$500,000 tomorrow."

SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen said the agency made a \$10,000 contribution as part of a January 27 fundraiser for No on Knight in San Francisco. "What we're saying is that at this particular time we believe it is important for the AIDS foundation to make this statement: that homophobia undermines AIDS prevention," Christen told the Bay Area Reporter.

She decided to propose that SFAF give \$45,000 more when Marshall appealed to the audience to dig deeper in their pockets to help the campaign buy television time to compete with new commercials from the other side.

"This is a tiny drop in the bucket in comparison to what's needed," said Christen. "But for us it's a significant amount."



SFAF's Pat Christen

With a \$19.3 million annual budget, SFAF made the donations, according to Christen, from non-governmental "unrestricted" funds raised from individual contributions and community events, such as the annual AIDS Walk or AIDS Ride. This fiscal year, SFAF's total unrestricted funds budget is \$12.8 million.

Christen said SFAF policy allows her, in consultation with other senior managers, to contribute up to \$50,000 to political causes without obtaining prior approval from the organization's board of directors. Though the total contribution exceeded that limit, Christen said that board members had been informally consulted.

"I felt like it was important that the ad campaign get on the air against the initiative, as soon as possible," said Christen, adding she got "unanimous consent" from her senior management team.

"I think it would be unethical for us to ignore this," Christen said.

SFAF's contributions to No on Knight are

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

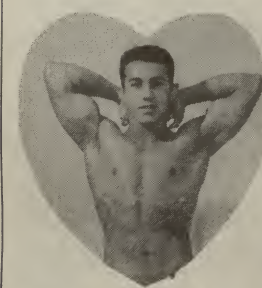
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Celebrating Black History Month



A Cunningham, right, led a group discussion with Men of All Colors Together at the Lone Star Saloon last Friday, February 4. The group discussed the work of James Baldwin and Langston Hughes. Men of All Colors Together meets monthly.

Jane Philomen Cleland

Project Open Hand expands beyond AIDS

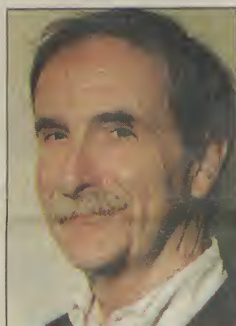
by Terry Beswick

With a bigger budget, a bigger kitchen — and a shrinking HIV/AIDS client list — Project Open Hand's "heart just got bigger," too.

This Monday, February 14, the nonprofit organization founded nearly 15 years ago specifically to deliver nutritious meals to people with AIDS will begin daily meal service to other people who are incapacitated, homebound, fighting any serious illness, or recovering from surgery.

To qualify for the new "Homebound/Critically Ill" program, an applicant must be under 60 years old, and have their physician or nurse practitioner certify every six months that they have a diagnosed illness that prevents them from preparing a meal.

A recent six-month pilot program for about 100 non-AIDS clients who were not eligible for



Project Open Hand's Tom Nolan

Meals on Wheels or other community programs was an "overwhelming success," Executive Director Tom Nolan told 25 clients, volunteers, and staff gathered to hear about the expansion at his organization's Polk Street headquarters last Wednesday, February 2.

Nolan cited a number of factors that contributed to the decision to serve new populations. First, he said, was the advent of protease inhibitors and other antiretrovirals that had not only improved survival for people with AIDS over the last five years, but had improved many people's health to the point where they could return to work, and care for themselves.

Last July, Project Open Hand's 3,200 HIV/AIDS clients in San

Francisco and Alameda counties, who had originally qualified for the group's meal programs simply by showing a letter from their doctor stating that they had either disabling HIV disease or an AIDS diagnosis, were informed that they would now be required to "recertify" every six months.

Similar to the new non-AIDS program, the HIV/AIDS clients were told they now need to meet one or more of 10 new specific criteria in order to continue to receive services. The new criteria for HIV/AIDS clients include: side effects to HIV medications, opportunistic infections, other conditions requiring bed rest or hospitalization, or no access to cooking facilities.

As a result of these changes, about 500 people had dropped off their rolls, according to a preliminary count, leaving about 2,700 HIV/AIDS clients.

"Anecdotally, a lot of people had told us that while they enjoyed the program, they really didn't need it," Nolan said. "We had to come up with a return meal policy because so many people could not be home between 4 and 7 p.m. [when meals are delivered]. And that told us something."

In addition, clients with HIV/AIDS — who previously could pick up a free weekly bag of groceries and receive seven hot or frozen meals delivered to their

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Anti-Knight initiative BART action in East Bay

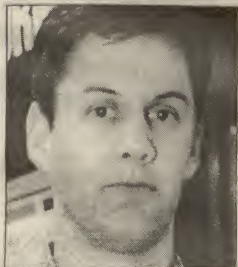
by Terry Beswick

When fundamentalist Christians, right-wing Mormons, holier-than-thou Catholics, and garden variety homophobes began cropping up in Walnut Creek, Antioch, Pleasanton, and other East Bay communities to preach the anti-gay marriage gospel, 32-year-old Mike Clune knew it was time to make his debut in political activism.

"I felt that if I didn't do anything, and we lost, it wouldn't be good for my mental health," the demographer from the U.S. Census Bureau said.

Now he just needs about 100 more spirited folks to join him.

Starting this Monday, February 14 and continuing through Friday, February 18, Clune will coordinate hundreds of volunteers in canvassing all 29 East Bay BART stations during the morning and evening rush hours. Clune and his crews will attempt



BART action organizer Mike Clune

to educate tens of thousands of commuting voters with handouts about the Knight initiative, Proposition 22 on the March 7 state ballot which, if passed, would place a permanent ban on same-sex marriages in California.

The most recent statewide Field Poll, conducted February 2-6, shows that the measure, put on the ballot and largely funded by religious conservatives, is still fa-

vored by 52 percent of voters, with 39 percent opposed. The San Francisco Bay Area, however, is the only region statewide opposed, with 51 percent saying they would vote against the Knight initiative, and 38 percent in favor.

But according to Clune, "a lot of people don't even know about the initiative. We have a diverse set of counties out here."

So far, Clune said he has about 120 volunteers signed up for the BART action, including "straight couples with children, volunteers from Lavender Seniors, the Tri-Valley NOW chapter, and white, African American, Latino, and Asian American gays and lesbians from throughout the East Bay."

About a hundred more volunteers are needed to help pass out No on Knight literature. All 29 BART stations need to be covered between the hours of 6:30 and 9:30 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.

To sign up for the BART action, call Mike Clune at (510) 540-1191. ▽

Say 'No on Knight' Valentine's weekend

by Terry Beswick

Win a spouse and stick it to state Senator Pete Knight all at the same time this Sunday, February 13 when Absolute Empress XXX Donna-Sachet hosts a special Valentine's dating game, "Yes on Romance, No on Knight," at Harvey's bar and restaurant from 7-10 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Community Book, there will be no admission charge for the event, but money will be raised for No on Knight/No on Proposition 22 with a raffle, with prizes donated

by Hotel Griffon, National Car Rental, Signature Limousine, Hornblower Cruises, Piaf's, Cafe Delle Stelle, Harvey's, and others. For more information, call (415) 934-8800.

Also on Valentine's Day eve, before the Harvey's event, get into the same-sex loving spirit with a cabaret of love songs from Madame and the Glide Ensemble Singers at "Love, Honor and Vote!" The Reverend Cecil Williams will serve as honorary host at the Sunday, February 13 fundraising party for the No on Knight campaign at Martuni's, at 4 Valencia at Market Street. Com-

plimentary hors d'oeuvres; no-host bar; condoms not provided. A minimum \$25 donation is requested. Call (415) 824-1956 for more information.

But for fashion-minded supporters of same-sex love, start the Valentine's Day weekend this Friday, February 11 at "Promise," a fashion show featuring the work of six "cutting-edge" local designers, including Yoji Iino, Deborah Hampton, Pedro Fedora, Lepoldo, Desiree Fasse, and the "Too Funky" Jeff Design.

The No on Knight fundraiser at 177 Townsend Street in San Fran-

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Did baseball star buy Bodfish's Bentley?

by Ed Walsh

Depending on whom you believe, baseball great Rickey Henderson was either the winning bidder or a runner-up in the auction of the classic Bentley automobile belonging to transgender murder victim Emmon Bodfish. Meanwhile, Bodfish's Orinda home remains under investigation by the state health department and Contra Costa County officials as the possible source of the rare disease, Q fever.

On Sunday, February 6, sources say Henderson was the

winning bidder for Bodfish's Bentley. The classic car sold for \$101,500. Bodfish purchased the car seven years ago for \$261,000.

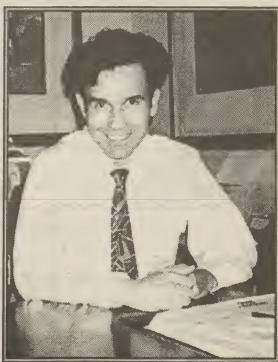
Henderson did not return calls placed to him through the firm representing him in Beverly Hills. The former Oakland A's star likely did not know the car belonged to Bodfish because the Harvey Clars auction house where it was sold does not release information on sellers. A's spokesman Jim Bloom said Henderson had bid on the Bentley but was not the winning bidder. "We would appreciate you keeping his name out of this," added Bloom. However Bloom's

denial was contradicted by three reliable sources who were certain Henderson was the winning and not the runner-up bidder.

Other Bodfish auction items included a jade necklace selling for \$51,750 and his diamond ring for \$41,400. In total, about \$250,000 was raised from Bodfish's possessions during the weekend auction.

As the Bay Area Reporter first reported last week, Orinda police Detective Tom Larocque became critically ill and was hospitalized for 12 days after contracting Q fever. Because of its incubation time, doctors strongly suspect Larocque got

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Stop and smell the flowers at OrchidMania in San Jose

by Katie Szymanski

To the delight of botany enthusiasts everywhere, thousands of orchids will be available for purchase at the "the world's largest orchid garage sale" in San Jose this weekend (February 12-13), a benefit for groundbreaking AIDS organizations around the world.

OrchidMania, now in its 10th year, provides financial and moral support to grassroots AIDS prevention and relief organizations in the United States, Central America, and Southeast Asia. It also strives to encourage interest in orchid cultivation, conservation, and appreciation. This is the first San Jose sale.

OrchidMania has a popular Mother's Day weekend sale in San Francisco and a fall sale in Berkeley.

Every year, orchid growers from around the world donate thousands of live plants to the organization, which are grown and housed in a 1500-foot greenhouse in San Francisco before being sold. Volunteers participate in a horticulture program; the program will soon offer learning opportunities and vocational training to at-risk urban youth.

Proceeds from orchid sales have gone to MITRA Indonesia, a hotline and HIV testing service in Jakarta; GAEMN (Gente para una Amor Nuevo/People for a New Love) a hospice and legal service

organization in Santiago, Chile; the Nguyen Friendship Society, a controversial underground prevention outreach and condom distribution program in Vietnam; and NEED, a needle exchange program operating out of Oakland and Berkeley.

OrchidMania takes over the town at 3278 Almaden Expressway, at Capital Expressway, in the Spas of Distinction facility in San Jose. On Saturday, the sale is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; on Sunday, the sale closes at 4 p.m. ▼

For more information, call (415) 841-1678, or visit www.orchids.org.

CCSF safer sex fair on Valentine's Day

by Terry Beswick

This Monday, February 14, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Project SAFE, the HIV/STD prevention and peer education program of City College of San Francisco, will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a "Safer Sex Health Fair." Organizers say the Project SAFE peer educators produce the fair "as an opportunity to

put the HIV/STD prevention education they have learned to practical 'hands-on' use."

There will be free confidential oral HIV testing, demonstrations on proper condom and lubricant use, and a wide variety of free literature about HIV/STD prevention available in many languages. Using a Valentine's Day theme, participants at the fair will also have the opportunity to win safer sex kits put together by the stu-

dents in the Project SAFE program. The health fair is free to the public and will take place on Ram Plaza near the cafeteria of the CCSF Phelan campus, 50 Phelan Street. ▼

For more information about the safer sex fair, call Clarence Johnson at (415) 665-8077, or Jennifer Dorham at (415) 452-0968.

Take your vows this weekend

by Terry Beswick

During National Freedom to Marry weekend, February 10 through 14, hundreds of California clergy from many faith traditions will celebrate "Solidarity Sabbath" in opposition to the Knight initiative/Proposition 22 with special services at churches and synagogues statewide.

Same-sex and other couples are invited to send a message to state Senator Pete Knight while reaffirming their vows of love and commitment at several events:

Sunday, February 13 at 11 a.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church at 1268 Sanchez Street at Clipper; Sunday, February 13 at 7 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco at 150 Eureka Street in the Castro; Monday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 1187 Franklin at Geary streets.

And this Saturday, February 12, Evan Wolfson, marriage project director at the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, will give a free lecture about the legal and social issues raised by Proposition 22 at Temple Emanuel-el, 2

Lake Street at Arguello.

For information about Solidarity Sabbath, call Tawnee Walling of the Interfaith Clergy Caucus at (415) 865-2752, or Cheryl Deane of All Our Families Coalition at (415) 681-1960. ▼

Lesbians, trannies and queers ... OHMY!

by Katie Szymanski

In the fourth conference of its kind, the Overcoming Homophobia Meeting for Youth this Saturday, February 12, will help queer and allied youth establish gay/straight alliances at their schools and arm them with leadership and activism skills to fight ignorance and hatred in their communities.

OHMY - sponsored by Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, the Bay Area Gay/Straight Alliance Network, and the San Francisco Unified School District - seeks to empower youth through a series of workshops and seminars that will last all day. Workshop topics are expected to include: how to start a kick-ass gay/straight alliance, transgender issues, religion/spirituality, coming out, AIDS/STD prevention and health, and diversity issues. Workshops will mostly be presented by youth, or by adults in conjunction with a person under 20 years of age.

OHMY is free and takes place at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street in San Francisco. To obtain a conference registration form, visit www.incite.org/ohmy, or register at the door. For more information, call (415) 703-6150, ext. 39. ▼

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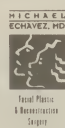
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- Robert M. Grant, MD, MPH: Resistance Testing
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- John Curd, MD: Vaccine Development
- Ben Cheng, MS: Hepatitis C/HIV Co-Infection

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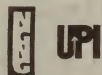


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OPEN FORUM

Survey says

It's that time again. The Bay Area Reporter is conducting a readership survey and we need your help. Simmons Market Research Bureau, Inc. is doing the survey for us, and a questionnaire will be included in some 4,000 copies of today's paper. If you get the survey packet, please complete it and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided. In 1996, the last time we did a survey, we had 554 responses, or 14.6 percent. We would like to see that number increase this year.

As an incentive, we will donate \$5 per response received to one of several local non-profit organizations. All are worthy and could use your support. The charities we have selected are: the AIDS Emergency Fund; Face to Face, which provides AIDS services in Sonoma County; Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services; and the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center.

We strive to provide readers with an interesting and informative paper every week, and the survey results will help us improve our job. Survey answers will be treated in the strictest confidence and to ensure anonymity, the postage-paid envelope for the return of your questionnaire is addressed to an independent research firm that will not identify you to anyone — ever. We don't sell our mailing list, nor will we be getting a mailing list as a result of this survey.

In other news surrounding polls and surveys, it was reported this week that support for the anti-gay Knight initiative is ahead in the latest Field Poll. The latest numbers show 52 percent of likely voters favor Proposition 22, known as the Limit on Marriages initiative, while 39 percent oppose the measure.

Not surprisingly, Republicans strongly favor Proposition 22 and nowhere was that clearer than at last weekend's state GOP convention in Burlingame. While many of the party faithful came out to hear Arizona Senator John McCain, there also was a Sunday prayer breakfast that was rabidly homophobic; just as past prayer breakfasts have included racist jokes, this year's event took aim at gays and lesbians. The state GOP chaplain — supposedly a man with re-

ligious beliefs — unleashed a tirade against gays with state Senator Pete Knight, author of Proposition 22, in attendance. One GOP speaker reportedly said the United States would "pay a price" like Nazi Germany for the acceptance of gay men and lesbians, and likened us to "all kinds of evil."

"Does the Republican Party have no sense of values?" asked the Reverend Jim Mitulski, pastor at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. "Senator Knight has succeeded in taking the Republican Party into the gutter."

No on Knight campaign manager Mike Marshall noted that the prayer breakfast remarks "removed the cloak of moderation in which the Proposition 22 campaign has tried to veil the measure." Marshall is right. For months, Knight has kept a low profile as Proposition 22 proponents have tried to argue that the initia-

tive is not about attacking gay families. Sunday's prayer breakfast dispelled that notion.

The one place in the state where No on Knight is leading is right here in the Bay Area. Starting Monday — appropriately Valentine's Day — the campaign will begin a voter education effort at East Bay BART stations and they could use your help, particularly at stations in Contra Costa County, which typically has more conservative voters. People need to learn about Proposition 22 so they can vote against it next month, and time is running out.

Readers who want to help defeat Proposition 22 should volunteer a few hours during the morning or evening commutes. For contact information, see the story on page three.

We — the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community — know how to vote on Proposition 22. Now, we have to start convincing others to do the same thing. ▼



Editorial



Beat the Petes: No on 21, 22

by M.C. Ettinger, Y.K. Hong,
Joshua Kaufman, and Amy Sonnie

On March 7, California's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community will face-off with right-wing politicians in yet another legislative battle. As most of the community knows, Proposition 22, also known as the "Limit on Marriages" initiative, threatens to permanently narrow California's marriage law, making it impossible for same-sex couples to legally marry. If passed, this initiative will undoubtedly open the door to rollbacks on hard-won domestic partner rights and benefits.

In addition, our community faces a similar, yet lesser known, attack next month. Proposition 21, also known as the "Youth Injustice" initiative, targets youth and will alter the focus of the juvenile crime system toward mass incarceration and away from violence prevention.

Proposition 21 is the result of former Governor Pete Wilson's failed legislative attempts. Proposition 22 is authored by right-wing state Senator Pete Knight.

Although there have been many sensationalized stories of youth violence lately, the California Department of Justice reports that youth crime is actually down 30 percent since 1990. Yet this proposition will invent new crimes and railroad 30,000 non-violent offenders into prison.

Proposition 21 plays on the fears of the public about youth, particularly youth of color, just as Proposition 22 plays on heterosexist misrepresentations of family values. As LGBTQ people who share a common history of scapegoating and criminalization, we know that good public policy cannot be created on the basis of fear and hatred.

Further, implementing Proposition 21 will cost taxpayers an estimated \$330 million

a year with one-time costs of \$750 million, according to the California's legislative analyst. Meanwhile, California already leads the nation in prison spending, but ranks a mere 41st in education spending. This is an irresponsible allocation of our tax dollars when studies show that \$1 million toward education incentives for young people prevents four times as many crimes as the same \$1 million put toward youth incarceration.

There are more productive ways to discourage youth crime. What we want are accessible education programs for youth, after-school programs, violence prevention, and economic justice for our communities. Instead, Proposition 21 will create new crimes and expand existing crime laws that are proven costly and ineffective.

For California's youth, this will mean longer, and harsher sentences for lesser crimes. If passed, Proposition 21 would force youth as young as 14 into adult facilities for nonviolent crimes such as graffiti. Although \$50,000 is the current minimum in damages required for a felony charge, Proposition 21 would lower that requirement to just \$400, making it a felony to put a sticker on a stop sign.

Proposition 21 will also allow police to brand three or more similarly dressed youth a gang. We know that young people of similar cultural backgrounds or communities often dress similarly, and we know that young people of color and young queers are already being used as scapegoats by police and other institutions.

Together, Propositions 21 and 22 represent an inundation of recent right-wing attacks against us. We need only look to our state's recent "hits of hate" to see this pattern — Propositions 209, 187, and 227 are

blatant examples of the power and persistence of these right-wing attacks against all oppressed communities. It is not surprising that Proposition 22's primary funder, the Ahmanson Foundation, also funded these previous hate initiatives. The right-wing has a self-interest in legalizing discrimination. If youth are being targeted now, who's next?

Black, white, Latino/a, Asian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, young or old, LGBTQ people are no strangers to this brand of hatred and fear. It is the kind of hatred and fear that has placed us at the center of the bull's-eye time and again. If these initiatives pass, we can only expect more of the same, with LGBTQ youth caught in the crossfire.

Proposition 22 would deny LGBTQ youth the security of partner benefits in the future, and Proposition 21 is guaranteed to incriminate queer youth — many of whom have been forced by their homophobic home situations to live and work on the streets. Propositions 21 and 22 are a clear and present threat to the survival of our youth, and will pave the way for the creation of more laws incriminating us for simply being who we are.

The LGBTQ community must take a stand against these mounting attacks. Propositions 21 and 22 represent two battles in the same war.

Vote NO on Propositions 21 and 22 on March 7. ▼

The authors are members of the Defeat the Petes Coalition, a group of organizations and individuals fighting against Propositions 21 and 22. Contact Defeat the Petes: (415) 820-1438 or e-mail defeatpetes@hotmail.com.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

The irony of the ivories

I would like to point out the irony of the "Colton Piano" ad in the January 27 issue, page 4. It says "proudly serving the musical needs of the Gay Community since 1955." Some of us still remember when the newly formed Gay Men's Chorus tried to rent a piano, and were turned down when they found out the organization was gay.

There has been only one company that has served the musical, political, and charitable needs of the gay community and that is Russell Kassman. He lent a piano (including tuning and moving) to the first performance I did at the AIDS ward at SF General in 1983. He donated a piano for a raffle held by the Mixed Chorus. He donated a piano to the first fundraiser for a newly formed organization call Shanti. The AIDS Emergency Fund has profited from his auction donations. All the pianos at the Sims Center were donated by Kassman Pianos. Colton Piano has not been in business since 1955 and I doubt their service to the community.

Next time I do a benefit, I'll call them for a rental and see if they'll waive the fee for charity.

Sharon McNight
Los Angeles, California

Now you're getting it

Regarding the January 27 "OutRight" ["Some advice to gay conservatives"]. This is the most insightful and useful column I have ever read from a gay conservative. Still a little too much emphasis on critiquing the gay left, but with a very important truth, that you had better not count on Steve Forbes flat taxers to save your ass from being beaten up on the streets. Your first point is the most important as well. Come out.

As a bleeding heart liberal and yellow dog Democrat who is still waiting to see the gay right accomplish anything of substance, I am impressed and gratified with your comments. The things you outline will help you help us all accomplish the goals we share.

But just because a (horrors) liberal agrees with you, I hope my praise doesn't cause you to rethink your position.

See you at gay Pride!

Will Hutchison
Bakersfield, California

Grow up

Christopher Martin [Mailstrom, February 3] should just grow up!

David Wolfe
San Francisco

The three Pride treasurers

We, the undersigned, as the last three persons to hold the office treasurer of SFLGBT Pride Celebration Committee, Inc., believe we have reason to publicly challenge the corporation's financial controls. During our individual tenures as treasurer, we have knowledge that the organization's president and executive director did frequently and selectively authorize expenditures and sign checks without the treasurer's prior knowledge. We firmly believe the checks and balances which the organization claims to have in place are inadequate, ineffective, and abused by the officers of the organization. As active members of the LGBT community, we have devoted tremendous amounts of personal time and effort on behalf of the organization, only to see the office of treasurer deliberately and repeatedly circumvented. Furthermore, we believe any organization (in this case Pride) that has had four treasurers in two years either removed from office or resign in protest over this issue cannot genuinely have appropriate or adequate checks and balances in place. Part of this abuse is demonstrated by the fact that the organization currently allows all four members of the organization's executive committee of the board of directors to sign checks without the consultation, knowledge, or consent of the treasurer. This situation has been brought before the board on numerous occasions, yet the president and executive director allow the situation to continue.

We believe it is in the best interest of the organization that the current president and executive director should resign from the Pride organization.

John Caldera
Former Pride Treasurer

Stephan Edwards
Former Pride Treasurer

Leigh Christopher
Former Pride Treasurer

Pride event to be best ever, I guarantee it

I have watched for the last few months as three people I know (two of whom are my friends of many years), have made extensive and exhaustive efforts to disrupt and divide the membership of the San Francisco parade organization. Any "controversy" within the membership has been "controversy" created by

these three people and a couple of their associates and is their current neurotic obsession. Creating chaos and disruption is an effective strategy for seizing power in any organization. Power is their first priority. The concerns and needs of our community come second. I have sadly watched for many years as these three have repeated again and again, in organization after organization, this same egotistical manipulation, sometimes getting what they want, and sometimes not. For 27 years I have devoted my life to progressive queer activism, using theater that is both outrageously satirical and entertaining.

I moved to San Francisco from Iowa in 1977, after producing the first gay and transgender activist events in the Midwest. In 1979 I founded the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in San Francisco, one of the few transgender activist groups in the U.S. at the time. One of the first pride celebration organizations in the entire world to include transgender people and reflect it in their name was the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee.

In 1998 I volunteered as the Main Stage entertainment director of the SF pride celebration, and have continued in that role since, working closely with Teddy Witherington, Calvin Gipson, and other members. I can guarantee that the people on the board of directors, the membership, and the staff are uncompromising in their commitment to producing a parade and celebration that is 1) inclusive, diverse, politically progressive; 2) entertaining; and 3) financially solvent. If this were not true, I wouldn't be wasting my time being involved.

I can guarantee you that we are busting our butts and breaking our backs to make this year's pride celebration the best in the 30-year history of the event.

Kenneth Bunch, Founder SPI
San Francisco

First Amendment rights for all

I strongly support John Rocker's First Amendment right to speak his mind and make misogynist, racist, homophobic, and AIDS-phobic comments to a magazine interviewer. All of us learn by making ignorant statements and having others criticize our ignorance. When we learn to hold our tongues, our education will suffer.

I strongly condemn baseball commissioner Bud Selig's order that Rocker undergo a psychological evaluation, be suspended from professional baseball, and pay a fine. Dissidents in the Soviet Union were imprisoned in mental hospitals with more due process than Selig afforded Rocker. Neither misogyny, racism, homophobia, nor AIDS-phobia are mental illnesses.

I strongly support "Dykeotomy" columnist Nancy Boutilier's First Amendment right to speak her mind and make anti-free speech comments as a newspaper commentator.

All of our progress on civil rights and civil liberties for women, people of all ethnicities, lesbians, gays, and people living with AIDS has been achieved by our long, loud, and vigorous exercise of our First Amendment rights of free speech, free assembly, freedom of the press, and petitioning for redress of grievances.

John Birmingham
San Francisco

HIVers wanted for prevention program

What does HIV prevention look like from the perspective of someone who is already positive?

The Stop AIDS Project is going to take a look at that question as well as many others that HIV-positive gay and bisexual men face on a daily basis. Throughout this year, Stop AIDS, along with Bay Area Young Positives and the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, will host a series of community forums and social events on a variety of topics of interest to HIV-positive gay and bi men.

Stop AIDS is looking for gay and bi men who are HIV-positive to help create this program. We are putting together a steering committee to help design and implement this series of events. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us, please send a brief statement as to why you'd like to join the committee to Steven Gibson at the Stop AIDS Project, 2128 15th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. You can also send this information by e-mail to SGibson@stopaids.org. In order to have as diverse of a committee as possible, please also include your age, ethnicity, and length of time since you tested positive. The first meeting takes place Wednesday, February 23 from 7-9 p.m. If you have questions, please call Steven at (415) 575-0150, ext. 258.

The Prevention for Positives project is coordinated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and is part of a multi-site, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative to develop HIV prevention programs specifically directed toward persons with HIV.

Steven Gibson, Program Director
Stop AIDS Project

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No on Knight comes out – sort of

by Dale Carpenter

The language of Proposition 22, a ballot initiative Californians will face on March 7, is straightforward: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." The Knight initiative – so dubbed by opponents because a principal sponsor is anti-gay state Senator Pete Knight, a Republican – would prevent California from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states.

In many respects, the campaign against Proposition 22 has been a refreshing departure from gay politics as usual. By avoiding the central issue of gay marriage, however, organizers have adopted a risky strategy that prolongs the day of reckoning on that issue.

No on Knight organizers have done a good job of marshaling available resources: They have reportedly raised more than \$3 million. Starting about February 14, they will air television and radio ads against the measure. They have set up an informative and user-friendly website (www.NoOnKnight.org) and have brought together an impressive grassroots cyber-network.

Not surprisingly, the No on Knight campaign has attracted traditional allies like Democratic politicians and labor organizations. Yet organizers recognize that they won't be enough. "We need Republican voters to vote 'no' in order to defeat [Proposition 22]," acknowledges Tracey Conaty, press secretary for the campaign.

Thanks to assistance from California's Log Cabin Republicans, No on Knight has been endorsed by high-profile GOPers like Silicon Valley Congressman Tom

Campbell, San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, and even controversial anti-affirmative action activist Ward Connerly. Campaign leaders emphasize that Republicans serve on their board of directors. This alone is a welcome change from the movement's usual reliance on progressive-only coalitions.

In the end, however, what will matter most in the California campaign and in similar electoral fights around the country is the message that resonates with voters.

The pro-Knight forces have a simple message that matches the simplicity of the ballot language: gay marriage is bad and the initiative will stop it.

The No on Knight campaign, by contrast, is running scared on the gay marriage issue. It refuses to take an official position supporting or opposing gay marriage. There is not a single passage in the campaign's materials defending the idea. Indeed, organizers emphasize the support they are getting from opponents of gay marriage.

"If people think this is an up-or-down vote on gay marriage, it will be very difficult to defeat this initiative," asserts Conaty. Thus, in public pronouncements and appearances, anti-initiative forces talk about everything but the merits of same-sex marriage.

Instead, they have personalized the fight, highlighting the fact that Knight himself has not spoken to his own gay son in four years. They assert that Proposition 22 constitutes "government interference" in "our personal lives," a clever message designed to appeal to conservatives who favor limited government. At the same time, they link Proposition 22 to a larger, unspecified right-wing agenda that will get a "big gust of wind in

its sails" if the initiative passes, according to Conaty. They also tie the initiative to a potential rise in anti-gay hate crimes, bringing in the mother of Matthew Shepard to raise money.

On its website, the campaign further warns that the initiative "threatens hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights and other equal rights and protections. ..." Those startling claims are based on the filing of (so far) unsuccessful legal challenges to domestic partnership ordinances and non-discrimination laws by the religious right in states that have passed anti-gay marriage laws.

In 1998, faced with similar initiatives, gay advocates in Alaska and Hawaii also sought to divert attention from same-sex marriage. In Hawaii, for example, they argued that the ballot proposal there would threaten the integrity of the state's Constitution. Voters spurned those diversionary tactics and overwhelmingly passed the proposals.

No on Knight's campaign manager, Mike Marshall, rejects any comparison to Alaska and Hawaii. He says the ballot fights in those states were about legalizing same-sex marriage, whereas California won't have gay marriage even if the initiative fails. However, that's a distinction that may be lost on voters reading the actual language of Proposition 22 in the ballot box.

Marshall also stresses that the Hawaii experience shows "you can't ignore the issue," which, according to him, is the "threat" the Knight initiative poses to gays as a group. He adds that some 87 percent of Californians say they personally know an openly gay person; the same figure for Hawaii was only 52 percent. Such people are usually more sympathetic to gay concerns.

Thus, unlike the Hawaii effort, No on Knight's ad campaign will actually use the words "gay" and "lesbian." That, too, is a welcome change in strategy.

Yet the alleged threats from passage of Proposition 22 – like erosion of hard-won domestic partners' benefits – are far-fetched forecasts of the measure's ultimate legal effect. Ironically, the more we cry wolf about them the more likely it is that religious conservatives will use our own arguments to try to strip away these protections if the initiative does pass.

The only immediate threat posed by the Knight initiative is that California will close the door to same-sex marriages it already does not recognize. And that is the only threat No on Knight does not want voters to think about.

This hide-the-ball tactic may succeed; indeed, it may be the only one that can succeed in the present environment. We'll know better on March 7.

But sometime, somewhere, somehow we are going to have to face this gay marriage thing head-on. We'll be better prepared for that day if we've been a little more candid about what we want and why we deserve it. ▼

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.

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POLITICS

Gay candidates in SF central committee races

by Wayne Friday

In addition to choosing delegates to their respective presidential nominating conventions, both Democratic and Republican voters will elect members to their party county committees on March 7. In the 12th Assembly District, represented by Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley**, and the 13th Assembly District, represented by **Carole Migden**, both Democrats, 12 members of the county committee will be elected by Democratic voters; seven additional members are appointed, giving the party's governing committee a total of 31 members. The local Democratic County Central Committee normally sets party policy, is responsible for voter registration, getting out the vote for Democratic nominees, raising funds, and in recent years has become more powerful since the committee also endorses candidates, even in the "non-partisan" supervisorial and mayoral races.

With the party registration in San Francisco being overwhelmingly Democratic, the members elected to the county committee have become increasingly powerful as these members decide who carries the official party endorsement and whose names appear on the all-important party slate cards.

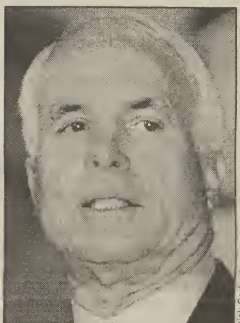
In the 13th Assembly District, no less than 15 openly gay and lesbian candidates have filed as committee candidates out of a total of 32 candidates. **Leslie Katz** and **Greg Day** are both incumbent members seeking re-election. Others from the gay and lesbian community include: **Shawn O'Hearn**, listed as an HIV/STD educator, and former Board of Supervisors candidate; **Juanita Owens**, a current member of the Board of Education; **Frederick Hobson**, a health policy consultant and former Board of Supervisors candidate; **Crisis Romero**, a union organizer and former president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club; **Alonzo D. Reese**, a law firm administrator and longtime member of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action; **Jeff Sheehy**, a civil rights organizer and past Milk Club president; **George Smith III**, a member of LGADDA; **Robin F. Levitt**, an architect and former candidate for the central committee; **Dean Goodwin**, an HIV services analyst for the Department of Public Health and Mayor **Willie Brown's** former liaison to the LGBT community; **Anna Damiani**, a longtime party activist and small business owner; **Jerry D. Threet**, a tenant attorney; **Scott M. Moore**, an Internet communications worker; and **Phillip Babcock**, an academic analyst and current Milk Club president.

Over in the 12th Assembly District, **Connie O'Connor**, a lieutenant in the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, and a veteran member of the county committee, is seeking re-election.

On the GOP side, there were

no identified gay or lesbian candidates for the Republican County Central Committee in the 12th Assembly District, but two gay men, **G. Michael German**, the general counsel for the committee, and attorney **Randy Bernard**, are candidates in the 13th Assembly District. Both men are incumbents, respected gay and civil rights activists, and deserve to be re-elected. Registered Republicans comprise about 15 percent of the county's voters, though the Elections Department

reports a marked increase in change of registration from "independent" to Republican in the past few days. Most political observers attribute this to the current buzz over presidential candidate **John McCain**,



Senator John McCain

who won a whopping 19-point victory over **George W. Bush** in New Hampshire's primary last Tuesday.

Members of the Democratic and Republican central committees serve two-year terms.

Politics and people

Former District Attorney **Arlo Smith** tells me that "as of now" he plans to be a candidate for supervisor in the 7th District this year and there are strong rumors that former prosecutor **Bill Fazio**, who missed being elected district attorney in December by only 1,700 votes, is being urged to run in that district as well; with no love lost between Fazio and Smith, that would be an interesting contest.

Word out of Sacramento is that Governor **Gray Davis** won't wait very long before deciding the future of embattled Caltrans director **Jose Medina**; my sources tell me that Medina, a former San Francisco supervisor, refuses to resign quietly and Davis may be forced to find him another job in order to get him out of the transportation department. One of the complaints Medina is facing is discrimination from women on his staff.

While speaking to the state GOP convention in Burlingame last weekend, Republican U.S. Senate candidate **Bill Horn**, a San Diego County supervisor, attacked fellow GOP Senate hopeful Representative **Tom Campbell** saying "In my mind, Campbell votes like Feinstein in boxer shorts."

First lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** made her candidacy for a

New York seat in the U.S. Senate official last Sunday, February 6, and the battle of celebrity endorsers for Clinton and her presumed GOP opponent, New York City Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani**, has already started. Giuliani boasts of campaign donations by four notoriously anti-gay celebs: **Charlton Heston**, far-right publisher **Richard Mellon Scaife**, conservative author **William F. Buckley**, and former U.N. Ambassador **Jeanne Kirkpatrick**. Clinton racked up campaign contributions from **Barbra Streisand**, **Rosie O'Donnell**, **Gloria Steinem**, and actors **Tom Cruise**, **Paul Newman**, and **Michael Douglas**.

After making barely a blip on the GOP presidential radar, **Gary Bauer** dropped out of the race last week. It was the homophobic Bauer who recently proclaimed allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military was "idiotic," right after the insufferably righteous **Alan Keyes** said that "one of the nice things about military people is, they're straight." (Ha!)

They went crazy over Arizona Senator **John McCain** at the California Republican Party convention last weekend in Burlingame; even "Boy" **George Bush's** supporters were grumbling that their man made a mistake in snubbing the show and sending his brother, Florida Governor **Jeb Bush**, in his place.

Some of those close to city Treasurer **Susan Leal** are suggesting that you can add her name to the list of mayoral possibilities the next time around.

One of the hottest races in next month's Democratic primary is the state's 23rd Senate District where Senator **Tom Hayden** (D) is termed out and Assemblymembers **Sheila Kuehl** and **Wally Knox** are locked in an increasingly bitter battle for the Demo nomination to succeed Hayden; Kuehl has the endorsements of Governor Davis and U.S. Senator **Barbara Boxer**, but Knox has a bigger bankroll. This one is a tossup.

Morgan Gorrono, co-owner of The Bar on Castro, was sworn in by Mayor Brown as a member of the city's Civil Service Commission.

The Concord City Council, at its meeting last Tuesday, appointed former San Franciscan and current Concord resident **Kevin W.W. Johnson**, a longtime gay and civil rights activist, to an unexpired term on that city's Human Relations Commission; the body supports personal freedoms from discrimination prohibited by state and federal law, develops positive human relations through community education and understanding, and encourages the promotion of better human relations and equal opportunity.

What's up with state Senator **Pete Knight**, the author of the anti-gay Proposition 22? This guy is so paranoid that he won't even debate the "gay marriage" proposition. San Francisco Supervisor **Mark Leno**, one of the champions of the No on Knight fight, has repeatedly asked Knight to debate the issue and he keeps ducking. Knight is even running from an invitation from the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco to debate the polished Leno.

And how was your week? ▼

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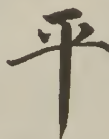
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Man's best friend

by Jane Warner
and Ron McGlashan

Noe and 18th, February 2, 1:45 a.m.: A drunk man walked into 7-Eleven and demanded a hot dog. When the clerk told him they were out of hot dogs, the man screamed obscenities and spit on her. He then walked out of the store and pushed a man who was standing outside the Men's Room bar next door. Police found the suspect walking northbound on Noe Street. Arrested for battery was Stephen Riggs, 43.



Crime & Punishment

Sucked dry

Cup of Joe's, 3801 17th Street, January 30, 2:25 a.m.: Police responded to a burglar alarm at Cup of Joe's coffeehouse and found the store's front window smashed. The owner arrived and determined that \$600 was taken from the register. Suspects are unknown.

Valet larking

Public parking lot, 18th and Castro, February 3, 11:25 a.m.: Walgreens employees notified police that a man was extorting money from patrons in the parking lot behind their store. Customers com-

plained that the man would point out parking spots and then expect a tip to keep their car safe while they were gone. Customers generally gave him money, fearing he would damage their vehicles if they didn't. Police knew of this man well. They located him in the lot and arrested Bernard McClothin, 34, for trespassing and having an outstanding \$10,000 warrant.

You asked for it, you got it

Collingwood and 18th, February 6, 12:30 a.m.: A man parked his Toyota on Collingwood Street and went to have dinner with a friend. When he returned, the rear plastic window was unzipped, a missing was a \$40,000 computer circuit board. Suspects are unknown. ▼

Castro robbers

◀ page 1

Two days later, on January 28, three men were walking on Eureka and 19th streets at around 10:55 p.m. They were approached by three other men, one with a gun, who demanded their money. All three victims lost about \$155 combined and several credit cards. Before the suspects fled, a man hit one of the victims over the head with the butt of the gun. The robbers ran northbound on Eureka Street toward 18th and were seen getting into a gold Honda or Acura, which sped off toward 19th Street.

On Tuesday, February 1 at 3 a.m. at the corner of 20th and Castro, a man who had just used the Bank of America ATM was approached by three men, one of

whom shoved a gun in his side. Taking his wallet, the men checked the victim's hand for a watch and jewelry, then ran around the corner and got into a white Volkswagen Rabbit. In this case, one of the suspects was thought to have been Filipino, speaking with a Tagalog accent.

On Friday, February 4 at 12:05 a.m. at Castro and 19th, a man was approached by three men who demanded his wallet. Although the victim did not see a gun, he heard what sounded like a shotgun rack. The suspects took the man's wallet and house keys and fled in a blue two-door vehicle.

On Sunday, February 6 at 12:45 a.m. at Noe and 19th streets, two men were approached by three robbers who demanded their wallets. One of the suspects held a semi-automatic handgun, pulled the slide

back and said, "Don't do anything stupid." A woman - described as an Asian female with her hair in a ponytail - stood on the corner acting as a lookout. The victims lost about \$70 as well as their identification. The suspects ran north on Noe toward the 7-Eleven store.

Robberies such as these are hard to prepare for and even harder to escape once the suspects have identified their victim, but Officer Jane Warner with the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which serves the Castro District, said there are certain precautions everyone should take.

First of all, try to avoid walking around during late night hours. If you must walk, avoid dark and unpopulated areas. Keep credit cards and identification separate from your wallet. Consider not wearing your favorite jewelry when you are out, and don't carry a lot of cash. Keep some "give away" money in your wallet, about \$10-\$15 in ones.

"You are our eyes and our ears," said Warner. "If you see anything suspicious in the neighborhood, call 911 and report it."

And of course, if you are approached, don't try to fight what could be a deadly situation; hand over the goods, do exactly as you're told, and count your blessings.

This is not the first time the Castro has seen a rash of armed robberies. In April and May of last year, the neighborhood's Cafe Monaco, A Different Light Bookstore, 7-Eleven, and Tower Records were all hit, along with some stores in the Mission neighborhood. In those cases, police arrested a single suspect believed to be responsible for about 10 crimes. In the case of the recent Castro street robberies, police have no known suspects. ▼

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Charges dropped in 'San Diego Six' SM trial

by Liz Highleyman

Last Tuesday, February 1, San Diego Deputy City Attorney Tristan Higgins-Goodell announced that the City Attorney's office would not further pursue charges against six defendants arrested at a private SM party in October.

The charges stemmed from a vice unit raid on an October 29 play party sponsored by Club X, a San Diego SM organization that sponsors social and educational

charges of "lewd acts" and offered a plea bargain involving a guilty plea, a \$500 fine, and three years probation; Watkins declined the offer in favor of a jury trial.

Watkins's trial began on January 24. Three witnesses testified for the defense about the nature of and the policies in effect at the party, which involved consensual adult activities. On January 26, the jury returned a unanimous verdict in Watkins's favor. Following the trial, members of the jury told Higgins-Goodell and defense attorney Andy

will still have pretrial conferences, it is expected that all charges will be dropped.

Soon after the October raid, Club X mounted an e-mail campaign and support for the six began to pour in from the leather community around the country; a defense fund was set up to cover legal expenses.

Pope said that Club X and other leather/SM/fetish groups in the city would retain an attorney to review the groups' policies and procedures in an attempt to avoid further vice actions in the future. ▼

On January 26, the jury returned a unanimous verdict in Watkins's favor. "The system actually worked this time."

events for the leather community. Six attendees were cited for lewd conduct or public nudity, both misdemeanors. No one was detained, and the party ended immediately following the raid. Club X co-chair Madoc Pope said that the organization holds a few such parties per year and has been doing so "for almost a decade," but has never previously had a similar problem with the San Diego police, including during the club's large annual LeatherFest events.

Although the defendants hoped to have charges against them dropped, the City Attorney's office proceeded with December arraignments. The first, Crickett Watkins, was arraigned on

Zmurkiewicz that they believed Higgins-Goodell's case was "weak" and that the vice raid was a "waste of time." According to Watkins, "The system actually worked this time."

The trials of the remaining five defendants (whose names were not made public to protect their privacy) had been scheduled to take place in late February, but after the city's loss in the first case, the city attorney declined to proceed with the rest of the trials. Although Higgins-Goodell did not give a reason for the decision not to pursue the remaining cases, Pope speculated that the decision resulted from the "complete defeat" in the initial trial. Although the rest of the defendants

The San Diego Club X Party Defense Fund continues to accept donations for court costs incurred by the defendants. For more information, see the website at www.geocities.com/sdsixfund.

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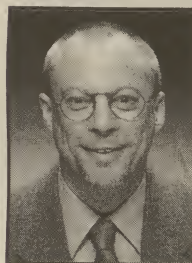
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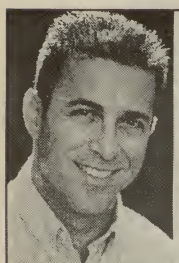
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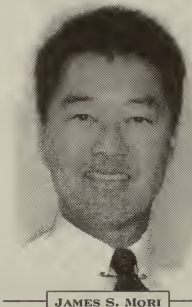
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Bill Bradley

◀ page 1

Bradley said.

Bradley also mentioned sexual orientation. "Every time I see someone who sees beyond gender and beyond sexual orientation I think all of us could be that good."

"What my campaign is about is asking good people to come forward so our voices can be heard. I want to be president of the United States in order to use the power of that office to do good," he said.

One of the centerpieces of Bradley's campaign is establishing universal health care, and he spoke about that, saying it is an issue that distinguishes him from Gore.

"National health care has been part of the Democratic platform for 50 years. Al Gore talks about universal health care but he doesn't have a plan," said Bradley.

Bradley's plan calls for providing all Americans access to quality and affordable health care. Specifically, it guarantees health care for all children and provides significant tax relief to working families so they can afford coverage. It also provides portability so that working people won't lose their health insurance when they lose or change jobs. Bradley estimates his plan would cost \$55-65 billion annually.

Milk Club support

The Milk Club's endorsement of Bradley last week was not unexpected. Phillip Babcock, newly elected club president, stated that "Our community can strongly support the candidacy of Bill Bradley. His record on civil rights and his strong commitment to the

LGBT community is unsurpassed in this race."

Babcock pointed to Bradley's stance against the failed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy covering gays in the military and his early opposition to the Knight initiative (Proposition 22) on the March ballot in California as just two reasons for the club's support. Another reason was Bradley's commitment to universal health care, including for people living with HIV/AIDS.

After his brief stop in California last week, Bradley headed to the East Coast for more campaigning. On Sunday, he met with representatives of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and pledged renewed efforts to fight the Knight initiative, which would ban California from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states.

"We are gratified that Senator Bradley not only recognizes the inherent unfairness of Proposition 22, but will continue to use his campaign as a bully pulpit to organize and get his supporters out to vote against it," said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF's executive director. "Both Bradley and Vice President Al Gore have spoken out forcefully against the Knight initiative. Now it is time to translate words into action and opposition into votes."

Bradley and Gore are expected to attend this weekend's state Democratic Party convention in San Jose. ▼

Bradley's Castro field office is located at 741 14th Street. For information, call the main San Francisco office at (415) 837-0470, ext. 2#.

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SFAF/Knight

◀ page 1

not the first time the nonprofit AIDS service organization has drawn on its public policy budget to fight statewide initiatives. The group contributed to campaigns against the draconian Lyndon LaRouche AIDS quarantine ballot measure in the late 1980s, and more recently contributed to the campaign against Proposition 209, an anti-affirmative action measure.

SFAF is not the only AIDS service organization in the state to contribute to No on Knight.

According to campaign finance filing reports, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, a \$35 million medical care provider to approximately 5,000 people with HIV/AIDS in the Los Angeles area, recently donated \$5,000 to No on Knight.

If the Knight initiative passes, Christen believes that gays and lesbians would suffer further discrimination. "The concern I would have is that it would send another hideous statement that gays and lesbians are not equal, and are considered lesser human beings" by California voters.

Increasingly, Christen said, research has shown that there is a strong correlation between homophobic attitudes in society, self-esteem among gay and bisexual men, and HIV transmission - particularly among African American and Latino men.

Christen pointed to findings released last month from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggesting that the social stigma of homosexuality "has helped fuel the spread" of HIV within minority communities.

"It's kind of astounding if you think about it," observed Christen, who has been involved in AIDS advocacy work since the days of the Reagan administration, "that the CDC would come out and say homophobia is correlated with HIV transmission."

Horizons Foundations Executive Director Peter Teague agreed with Christen's assessment. "We're only beginning to understand the links between homophobia and, not just AIDS, but a whole range of public health issues. My personal view is [No on Knight donations] are a good investment in AIDS prevention, thinking about AIDS as symptom of homophobia."

Marshall, whose fundraising efforts have been far less successful than Yes on Knight's, was effusive in his praise for both SFAF and Horizons.

"The only reason we have this money is because of Pat Christen," Marshall of SFAF's \$55,000 donation. "The AIDS foundation gets this, that if the Knight initiative passes, it doesn't help them do their job in preventing new HIV infections."

Marshall also credited Teague with "taking a tremendous lead" in the No on Knight effort. "He's calling other nonprofits asking them to match their contributions."

Not everyone in the community agreed that AIDS service and prevention organizations should give money to fight the anti-gay Knight initiative.

"When you give money to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, what you believe you are giving money to is direct client services and direct prevention programs," commented A. Toni Young, an HIV prevention consultant who co-chairs the HIV Prevention Planning Council.

"I see their long-term vision, but \$55,000 worth of sterile needles in the midst of an epidemic among injection drug users would be a more meaningful use of funds," Young said. ▼

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SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

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Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

FOR HIV

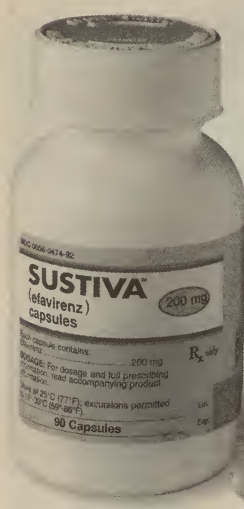
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1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 1999.

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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
 - Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.
- Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA.*

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA.**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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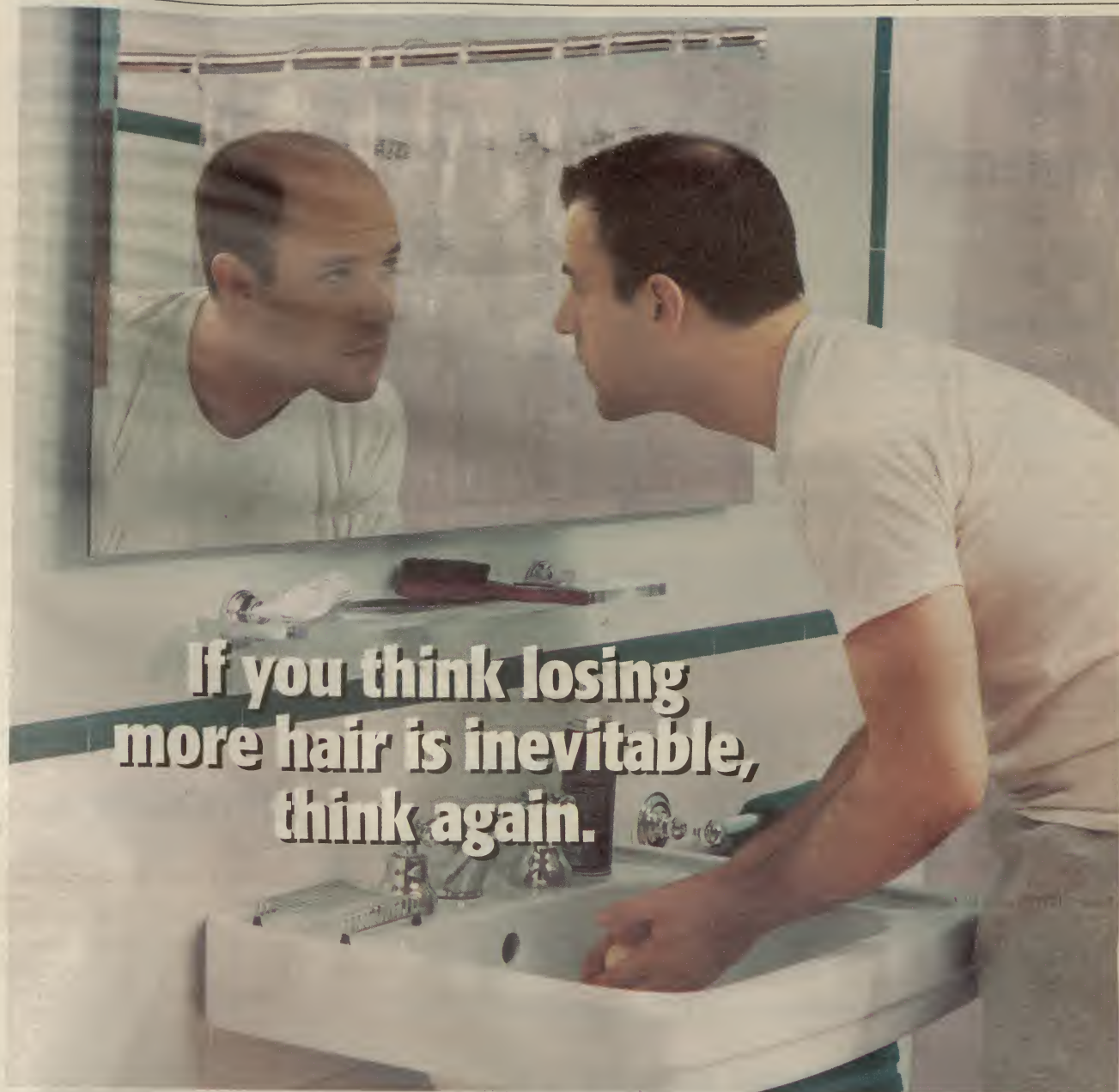
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DuPont Pharmaceuticals

Wilmington, DE 19880
Issued September, 1998



The first and only pill clinically proven to treat hair loss in men.

PROPECIA is a medical breakthrough—the first pill that effectively treats male pattern hair loss on the vertex (at top of head) and anterior mid-scalp area.

By all measures, the clinical results of PROPECIA in men are impressive:*

- 83% maintained their hair based on hair count (vs. 28% with placebo).
- 66% had visible regrowth as rated by independent dermatologists (vs. 7% with placebo).
- 80% were rated as improved by clinical doctors (vs. 47% with placebo).
- Most men reported an increase in the amount of hair, a decrease in hair loss, and improvement in appearance.

*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

Scientists have recently discovered that men with male pattern hair loss have an increased level of DHT in their scalps. PROPECIA blocks the formation of DHT and, in this way, appears to interrupt a key factor in the development of inherited male pattern hair loss in men.

Importantly, PROPECIA helps grow natural hair—not just peach fuzz—and is as convenient to take as a vitamin: one pill a day.

Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for **men only**. Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as: less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA.

So start talking to your doctor. And stop thinking further hair loss is inevitable.

CALL 1-888-806-3725 or visit our website at www.propecia.com today to receive detailed product information, including clinical "before and after" photographs.

Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

Propecia
(finasteride)
Helping make hair loss history™



Propecia® (finasteride) Tablets

Patient Information about PROPECIA®
(Pro-pee-sha)
Generic name: finasteride (fin-AS-tur-eyed)

PROPECIA® is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel**** Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do **not** take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will **not** work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Who should **NOT** take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
 - must not use PROPECIA
 - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

1-800-830-7375, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M. (ET).

Propecia®
(finasteride) Tablets

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For more information, please call

* Mark Bowers at 415-353-6215.

Risky business

HIV transmission focus of conference

by Bob Roehr

How difficult is it to get HIV? The seventh Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections offered a mixed bag of evidence that both soothed and disconcerted.

Heterosexual transmission between married couples did not occur if the viral load was 1,500 or less, in a study done in Uganda. Dr. Thomas Quinn, from Johns Hopkins University, monitored 415 couples over 30 months and reached that encouraging conclusion. He also confirmed that risk of transmission from the infected to the uninfected partner increased with the viral load. It made little difference whether male or female partner was infected.

But don't go throwing those condoms away just because your viral load is undetectable, there are some serious questions about relevancy of the data. The number of people in the study with a low viral load was small, so statistically speaking, one would not necessarily expect to see any new infections in this subset.

HIV is a rapidly mutating virus. It is not clear that virus held in check by drugs has the same infective capacity as virus held in check by the immune system. Nor is it clear what role non-vaginal sex played in transmission in the study group. Many believe that unprotected anal sex carries a higher risk of transmission than does vaginal sex.

Dr. Michelle Roland, a researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, told the Associated Press that she knows of one case in the city where a man passed the virus to his female sex partner, even though his plasma viral load was undetectable.

That could be because the testes are behind a blood barrier, which some anti-HIV drugs do not penetrate very well. The virus can have separate patterns of activity and mutation within this tissue compartment. Also, viral load can "blip" or show a short-term rise due to a cold, minor infection, or even a vaccination. That blip may not be caught by a viral load test as frequent as once a month.

Oral sex

Prevention messages within the gay community have long taught that oral sex is "safer" than unprotected anal sex. Some have been lulled or deluded themselves into thinking that low risk meant no risk. They were shocked to read a report that assigned 6.6 percent of HIV infections in one study to oral sex. Dr. Beth Dillon, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, presented the work.

Over a three-year period her research team interviewed 122 patients in San Francisco who were recently infected (within the last 12 months), to ascertain how they became infected. It found eight who claimed to engage only in oral sex, or who always used condoms when getting fucked. While condoms are highly effective in preventing the transmission of HIV, they are not 100 percent effective. Aside from the noticeable complete break, from time to time a small bit of material may slip through, as illustrated by the occasional pregnancy, even though a condom was used during sex.

Seven of the eight performed oral sex to orgasm, little is known of



Dr. Gary Nabel

the viral load of their partners. Several likely had gum or mouth disease at the time of infection, which may have facilitated transmission. Use of poppers, which dilate blood vessels and hence exposure to HIV, was not recorded. The study did not

report information on the number of sexual contacts each patient had, so it offers nothing on the relative risk of each contact.

"It's a little piece of evidence," said James Learned, an educator with the Community Research Initiative on AIDS. "But there are big questions in it." He urged people to read it "in context" and not get too upset or discouraged. Oral sex is still more than a hundred times less risky than unprotected anal sex.

Superinfection

"Is there original immunogenic sin?" asked Dr. Gary Nabel, director of the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health. Many believe that once infected with HIV, one cannot become infected with a second strain. The few exceptions to the rule have been attributed to virtually simultaneous exposure to two viruses.

Dr. J.B. Angel documented the first example of "superinfection,"

page 23 ►

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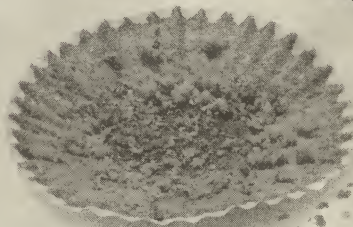
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MARINOL® can cause side effects in some patients including dizziness, confusion, sleepiness, paranoid reactions, or a feeling of being "high" (easy laughing, elation, and heightened awareness). Many of these reactions disappear within 1 to 3 days of continuous dosage or can be eliminated by lowering the dose.

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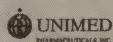
(dronabinol)

capsules 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg

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(dronabinol) Capsules

Brief Summary on Marinol® (dronabinol) Capsules.
Before prescribing, see complete prescribing information.

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Marinol (dronabinol) is indicated for the treatment of:

1. anorexia associated with weight loss in patients with AIDS; and
2. nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conventional antiemetic treatments.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Marinol (dronabinol) is contraindicated in any patient who has a history of hypersensitivity to any cannabinoid or sesame oil.

WARNINGS

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

PRECAUTIONS

General: The risk/benefit ratio of Marinol (dronabinol) use should be carefully evaluated in patients with the following medical conditions because of individual variation in response and tolerance to the effects of Marinol.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with cardiac disorders because of occasional hypotension, possible hypertension, syncope, or tachycardia (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance abuse, including alcohol abuse or dependence, because they may be more prone to abuse Marinol as well. Multiple substance abuse is common and marijuana, which contains the same active compound, is a frequently abused substance.

Marinol should be used with caution and careful psychiatric monitoring in patients with mania, depression, or schizophrenia because Marinol may exacerbate these illnesses.

Marinol should be used with caution in pregnant patients, nursing mothers, or pediatric patients because it has not been studied in these patient populations.

Marinol should be used with caution for treatment of anorexia and weight loss in elderly patients with AIDS because they may be more sensitive to the psychoactive effects and because its use in these patients has not been studied.

Information for Patients: Patients receiving treatment with Marinol (dronabinol) should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system depression if Marinol is used concomitantly with alcohol or other CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

Patients using Marinol should be advised of possible changes in mood and other adverse behavioral effects of the drug so as to avoid panic in the event of such manifestations. Patients should remain under the supervision of a responsible adult during initial use of Marinol and following dosage adjustments.

Drug Interactions: In studies involving patients with AIDS and/or cancer, Marinol (dronabinol) has been administered with a variety of medications (e.g., cytotoxic agents, anti-infective agents, sedatives, or opioid analgesics) without resulting in any clinically significant drug-drug interactions. Although no drug-drug interactions were discovered during the clinical trials of Marinol, cannabinoids may interact with other medications through both metabolic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms. Dronabinol is highly protein bound to plasma proteins, and therefore, might displace other protein-bound drugs. Although this displacement has not been confirmed *in vivo*, practitioners should monitor patients for a change in dosage requirements when administering Marinol to patients receiving other highly protein-bound drugs. Published reports of drug-drug interactions involving cannabinoids are summarized in the following table.

CONCOMITANT DRUG	CLINICAL EFFECT(S)
Amphetamines, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents	Additive hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity
Atropine, scopolamine, anticholinergics, other anticholinergic agents	Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness
Amifloxyline, amoxapine, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants	Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness
Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opioids, bupropion, antihistamines, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants	Additive drowsiness and CNS depression
Disulfiram	A reversible hypotensive reaction was reported in a 28 y/o man who smoked marijuana; confirmed by dechallenge and rechallenge.
Fluoxetine	A 21 y/o female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine X 4 was became hypotensive after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days.
Antipyrene, barbiturates	Decreased clearance of these agents, presumably via competitive inhibition of metabolism.
Theophylline	Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana; effect similar to that following smoking tobacco.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (77 days) in rats, oral administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/m², equivalent to 0.3 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 50 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, reduced ventral prostate, seminal vesicle and epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreased spermatogenesis, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testes were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testosterone levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings in humans is not known.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/m², equivalent to 0.2 to 5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 50 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 1 to 30 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, and in rats at 74 to 295 mg/m² (equivalent to 0.8 to 3 times MRHD of 50 mg/m² in cancer patients or 5 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients). These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses which produced less maternal toxicity. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Use of Marinol is not recommended in nursing mothers since, in addition to the secretion of HIV virus in breast milk, dronabinol is concentrated in and secreted in human breast milk and is absorbed by the nursing baby.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experiences information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss included 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg twice daily and 67 receiving placebo. Studies of different durations were combined by considering the first occurrence of events during the first 28 days. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 68 receiving placebo.

A cannabinoid dose-related "high" (easy laughing, elation and heightened awareness) has been reported by

by Liz Highleyman

New findings published in the January 28 issue of *Science* magazine suggest that HIV originated in 1930 in west equatorial Africa, two decades earlier than previously believed.

The research was conducted by a team from Northwestern University, the University of Alabama, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. The unpublished findings were presented in a review article by Dr. Beatrice Hahn of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The latest estimates are based on supercomputer models of HIV evolution derived from a large database of HIV samples at Los Alamos; genetic sequences were used to construct an evolutionary tree for the virus. Dr. Bette Korber, head of the Los Alamos team,

discussed the findings at the seventh Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections held in San Francisco January 30-February 2. The 1930 estimate has a margin of error of 20 years.

At the Intersciences Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections last September, Hahn presented findings suggesting that HIV most likely jumped the species barrier from chimpanzees to humans, since the most common type of HIV - Group M - is closely related to a virus found in chimps; Hahn proposed that this interspecies transmission probably occurred in the rain forests of west Africa.

Anthropological evidence lends credence to the new estimated date. Early in the 20th century, changes related to colonialism and dislocation could have set the stage for the transmission of

the virus from chimps to humans. Beginning in 1921, French colonizers began building the Congo-Ocean railroad through the rain forest, a project that involved forced labor and the destruction of villages. According to Bruce Fetter, a social historian from the University of Wisconsin, malnourished workers might have resorted to killing chimps for food, which could have led to bites and injuries that allowed the virus to pass from chimps to humans. The virus may have crossed the species barrier on more than one occasion. Dr. Steven Wolinsky of Northwestern University Medical School suggested that HIV may have existed in humans for a long time before it became virulent and began its epidemic spread.

The first known case of HIV was detected in a plasma sample stored in 1959 in Kinshasa, near the Congo-Ocean railroad terminus.

Other factors around the same time may have also contributed to the spread of the virus. Colonizers instituted widespread vaccination programs against diseases such as smallpox and sleeping sickness, in which needles were used on multiple people. Also, in the early decades of the century chimps began to be captured for zoos and circuses. According to Jim Moore, an anthropologist at the University of California, San Diego, this was likely the first time people were trying to capture chimps alive, increasing the risk of bites.

Not everyone agrees with the 1930 estimate. A 1999 book, *The River*, by British author Edward Hooper, proposed that HIV was transmitted to humans due to the use of primate kidney tissue in the development of the oral polio vaccine in the late 1950s. Hooper argues, "It's unlikely HIV would have left no traces between an emergence around 1930 and the first known case in 1959."

Since its emergence, HIV has mutated into several subtypes, making vaccine development more difficult. ▽

A 'sick' finale Friday

by Katie Szymanski

San Francisco has come to know and love them as the tasteless, fashionless drag riot with a flawless sense of harmony. But now that they're too good for us, the Kinsey Sicks - the dragapella quartet made up of professional men by day and beauty shop vocalists by night - is throwing one last bash to be "run out of town in style" before they head to New York for their off-Broadway run.

"A One Night Stand," their final performance in San Francisco, is this Friday, February 11 at the Herbst Theatre at 401 Van Ness Avenue. The 8 p.m. show is \$20-\$30 in advance and \$25-\$35 at the door and benefits the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, which will lose its executive director - Irwin Keller - to the big-haired foursome. Special sponsor tickets, which include Princess Circle seating and a post-performance reception with the divas are \$75-\$125. Call (415) 392-4400 or (415) 248-3970 for more information. ▽

patients receiving Marinol in both the antiemetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (8%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

The most frequently reported adverse experiences in patients with AIDS during placebo-controlled clinical trials involved the CNS and were reported by 33% of patients receiving Marinol. About 25% of patients reported a minor CNS adverse event during the first 2 weeks and about 4% reported such an event each week for the next 6 weeks thereafter.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence greater than 1%.

Rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-emetic use (given in parentheses).

Body as a whole:

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/facial flush.
Digestive: Abdominal pain*, nausea*, vomiting*,
Nervous system: (Anxiety), anxiety/nervousness, (ataxia), confusion, depersonalization, dizziness*, euphoria*,
(hallucinations), paranoid reaction*, somnolence*, thinking abnormal*.

*Incidence of events 3% to 10%.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence less than 1%.

Event rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317).

Cardiovascular: Conduction/ventricle*, hypotension*.

Digestive: Diarrhea*, fecal incontinence.
Musculoskeletal: Myalgias.
Nervous system: Depression, nightmares, speech difficulties, tinnitus.
Skin and Appendages: Flushing*.

*Incidence of events 0.3% to 1%.

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN: Incidence less than 1%.

The clinical significance of the association of these events with Marinol treatment is unknown, but they are reported as adverse information for the clinician.

Body as a whole:

Chills, headache, malaise.
Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation.
Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis.
Skin and Appendages: Sweating.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Marinol (dronabinol) is one of the psychoactive compounds present in cannabis, and is abused and controlled (Schedule II (CII)) under the Controlled Substances Act. Both psychological and physiological dependence have been noted in healthy individuals receiving dronabinol, but addiction is uncommon and has only been seen after prolonged high dose administration.

Chronic abuse of cannabinoids has been associated with decrements in motivation, cognition, judgment, and perception. The etiology of these impairments is unknown, but may be associated with the complex process of addiction rather than an isolated effect of the drug. No such decrements in psychological, social or neurological status have been associated with the administration of Marinol for therapeutic purposes.

In an open-label study in patients with AIDS who received Marinol for up to five months, no abuse, diversion or systematic change in personality or social functioning were observed despite the inclusion of a substantial number of patients with a past history of drug abuse.

An abstinence syndrome has been reported after the abrupt discontinuation of dronabinol in volunteers receiving dosages of 2.0 mg/day for 12 to 16 consecutive days. Within 12 hours after discontinuation, these volunteers manifested symptoms such as irritability, insomnia, and restlessness. By approximately 24 hours post-dronabinol discontinuation, withdrawal symptoms intensified to include "hot flashes", sweating, myalgias, loose stools, hiccups and anorexia.

These withdrawal symptoms gradually dissipated over the next 48 hours. Electroencephalographic changes consistent with the effects of drug withdrawal (hyperexcitability) were recorded in patients after abrupt discontinuation. Patients also complained of disturbed sleep for several weeks after discontinuing therapy with high dosages of dronabinol.

OVERDOSEAGE

Signs and symptoms following MILD Marinol (dronabinol) intoxication include drowsiness, euphoria, heightened sensory awareness, altered time perception, reddened conjunctiva, dry mouth and tachycardia; following MODERATE intoxication include memory impairment, depersonalization, mood alteration, urinary retention, and reduced bowel motility; and following SEVERE intoxication include decreased motor coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, and postural hypotension. Aggressive patients may experience panic reactions and seizures may occur in patients with existing seizure disorders.

The estimated lethal human dose of intravenous dronabinol is 30 mg/kg (2100 mg/70kg). Significant CNS symptoms in anesthetic studies followed oral doses of 0.4 mg/kg (28 mg/70 kg) of Marinol.

Management: A potentially self-limiting condition, if recent, should be managed with gastric decontamination. In unconscious patients with a secure airway, instill activated charcoal (30 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) via a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depressive, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Benzodiazepines (5 to 10 mg diazepam po) may be used for treatment of extreme agitation. Hypotension usually responds to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Appetite stimulation: Initially, 2.5 mg Marinol (dronabinol) should be administered orally twice daily (b.i.d.), before lunch and supper. For patients unable to tolerate this 5 mg/day dosage of Marinol, the dosage can be reduced to 2.5 mg/day, administered as a single dose in the evening or at bedtime. If clinically indicated and in the absence of significant adverse effects, the dosage may be gradually increased to a maximum of 20 mg/day Marinol, administered in divided oral doses. Caution should be exercised in escalating the dosage of Marinol because of the increased frequency of dose-related adverse experiences at higher dosages (see PRECAUTIONS).

Antiemetic: Marinol is best administered at an initial dose of 5 mg/m², given 1 to 3 hours prior to the administration of chemotherapy, then every 2 to 4 hours after chemotherapy is given, for a total of 4 to 6 doses/day. Should the 5 mg/m² dose prove to be ineffective, and in the absence of significant side effects, the dose may be escalated by 2.5 mg/m² increments to a maximum of 15 mg/m² per dose. Caution should be exercised in dose escalation, however, as the incidence of disturbing psychiatric symptoms increases significantly at maximum dose (see PRECAUTIONS).

SAFETY AND HANDLING

Marinol (dronabinol) should be packaged in a well-closed container and stored in a cool environment between 8° and 15°C (46° and 59°F). Protect from freezing. No particular hazard to health care workers handling the capsules has been identified.

HOW SUPPLIED

MARINOL® CAPSULES (dronabinol solution in sesame oil in soft gelatin capsules)

2.5 mg white capsules (identified RL)

NDC 0054-2601-11: Bottles of 25 capsules

NDC 0054-2601-21: Bottles of 60 capsules

NDC 0054-2601-31: Bottles of 100 capsules

5 mg dark brown capsules (identified RL)

NDC 0054-2602-11: Bottles of 25 capsules

NDC 0054-2602-21: Bottles of 60 capsules

10 mg orange capsules (identified RL)

NDC 0054-2603-11: Bottles of 25 capsules

NDC 0054-2603-21: Bottles of 60 capsules

MARINOL® is a registered trademark of United Pharmaceutical, Inc. and is marketed by Roxane Laboratories, Inc. under license from United Pharmaceutical, Inc.

Manufactured by Banner Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Chatsworth CA 91311

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WHAT YOUR PROTEASE INHIBITOR CAN BE:



**POWERFUL AND
EASY TO LIVE WITH.**

#1
Prescribed
medication of
its kind*

VIRACEPT IS POWERFUL It's tough on HIV. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy.

(The clinical significance of changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established.

The virus may still be present in other organ systems.) **VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH**

Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks. **VIRACEPT IS**

GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV

infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some

HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus

and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia.

Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder



Agouron
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
A Warner-Lambert Company

*IMS NPA Prescription Data 8/98 - 5/99

VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

tablets and oral powder

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept) Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Efavir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Vide® (didanosine, ddi)

If you are taking both Videx (ddi) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
• Viramune® (nevirapine)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
• Other NNRTIs
VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir® (ritonavir)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)
The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7	to < 8.5	1.5	to < 1.5	-
8.5	to < 10.5	2	to < 2	-
10.5	to < 12	2.5	to < 2.5	-
12	to < 14	3	to < 3	-
14	to < 16	3.5	to < 3.5	-
16	to < 18	4	to < 4	-
18	to < 23	5	to < 5	2
≥ 23	≥ 50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.647.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Richard D. Bell
January 15, 1955 —
January 29, 2000



Rick passed away at his home in the Oakland hills, gently and peacefully. Rick struggled valiantly for six years with AIDS and a subsequent brain tumor. His partner of 10 years, Ed Likely, and his

Bodfish

◀ page 3

the disease as a result of his work in Bodfish's Orinda home.

State health department spokeswoman Lea Brooks said Q fever is so rare that only three cases, including Larocque's, were reported in California last year. Deborah Bass, of Contra Costa County Mosquito and Vector Control said it was the first reported case ever in Contra Costa County.

Q fever is caused by the *Coxiella burnetii* bacteria found in infected animals. It can be transmitted from animals to people through dust contaminated from the tissue or bodily fluids of animals infected with the bacteria. Doctors speculate Larocque contracted the disease after inhaling infected dust in Bodfish's home.

State health department officials say it could be several weeks before they are able to determine whether the bacteria that causes Q fever is present in Bodfish's home. Testing of the house began this week.

If Bodfish's home is confirmed as the source of Q fever, there's a possibility it could explain Bodfish's apparent ill health. Bodfish had told his friends he damaged his liver and suffered chronic illnesses as the result of his work with toxic chemicals years ago when he was in the plumbing and pool business. Bodfish's autopsy report included an analysis of his liver. It was completely normal, prompting speculation Bodfish was a hypochondriac. Experts say it's not out of the realm of possibility that an untreated case of Q fever could result in chronic illness.

In some aspects, Q fever may be as mysterious as Bodfish's murder itself. Police say they still have no suspects and no leads. Bodfish, 56, was found dead in his Orinda home last June 30. His son, Max Willis, 33, was found dead the next day in Southern California after he slashed himself with a razor after being told of his mother's (Bodfish) death.

Police may soon release more information on the case in the hopes it will generate tips from the public. Last week, Bodfish's estate executor and longtime lawyer, Garrett Riegg, told the B.A.R. he hopes he will be able to use some of Bodfish's money to initiate a reward fund to help catch his killer. ▼

parents, Jim and Doris Bell, were at his side at the end. His devoted sister, Karen Nelson, and many loyal friends also survive him. Rick was a respiratory therapist by profession, but in recent years, his artistic talent came to full fruition through the beautiful pottery he made. His creativity, wonderful sense of humor, and warm, generous spirit will always be remembered.

A memorial service for Rick will be held Saturday, February 12 at 2 p.m. at the Montclair United Methodist Church, 2162 Mountain Boulevard, Oakland. Donations in Rick's memory may be made to Project Inform or the UCSF Brain Tumor Research Center.

Raymond Lyle Gallant
1946 — 2000



Ray passed away February 1 at Coming Home Hospice with loving friends at his side. His passing was due to inoperable cancer. Besides his warm heart and generous disposition, you may also

know Ray for the lighthearted way he referred to all his friends and acquaintances as "young Richard," "young Frank." He really made you feel good just to be with him. Ray was devoted to developing and maintaining lifelong friendships through his willingness to help whenever possible. Always remembering birthdays and special occasions. The type of partner you could rely on to remember your anniversary. He was a true gentleman in all of his dealings with friends and acquaintances. Ray was born and raised in Puyallup, Washington, the youngest of three children. He graduated from Washington State University, served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, and later worked in various branches of the Federal Government, where was an admired and respected supervisor and co-worker. His ashes will be dispersed in Hawaii.

A gathering of his friends will be held at his home on Saturday February 12 from one to four. Contact Richard at (415) 431-6522. Donations in his memory can be sent to The Kidney Cancer Association 1234 Sherman Ave. Evanston, IL 60202 or the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Frank Irving
1916 — 1999

Frank Irving, 83, ended his long and valiant battle with cancer on November 23, 1999, in Palm Springs. Frank had lived in San Francisco for 20 years before he moved to Palm Springs in 1992. He was born April 14, 1916, in Canada. His parents were the Rev. and Mrs. George Irving of Summit, New Jersey. Frank had retired as an overseas



personnel manager for Morrison-Knudsen in construction projects around the world. After his retirement he served as a volunteer office manager for the late Rev. Jim Sandmire in the Golden Gate

Metropolitan Community Church office in San Francisco.

Frank was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army. While he was with Morrison-Knudsen he was sent to Saigon during the Vietnam War. Frank's stories of wartime "after hours" life in London and Saigon were fascinating. Frank was a member of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul in the Desert in Palm Springs, and attended Metropolitan Community Church of the Coachella Valley after that church began in Palm Springs.

Frank is survived by his sister, Ruth Thatcher, a long-time resident of Red Bluff, California and now a resident of Port Townsend, Washington. Frank is also survived by his extended family in Palm Springs, including Larry Hughes, Cary Owen, Robert "Bob" Harrison, and John Wahl.

A memorial service was held at St. Paul of the Desert Episcopal Church on December 4, 1999. Frank's ashes were interred in a niche at the church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Cancer Screening Fund of the Desert Business Association Foundation, 1069 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, California 92264.

Thomas Franklin Rolfen



Thomas Franklin Rolfen, age 87, died on January 27, 2000. Tom and Chal Cochran, his partner of 52 years, not only lived together, but also worked together and shared interest in

the same projects.

They are probably best known as being among the founders of the Gay Atheist League of America in 1976. Tom served as the National President of GALA from 1976 through 1982. In 1983 a bogus press release was printed in gay papers throughout the country. It stated that Tom had died, had a deathbed conversion, and left his estate to the Roman Catholic Church! No death bed conversion this time!

Tom and Chal had several businesses together, including a restaurant and a printing business. They printed slate cards for many elections and at one time printed the "Mattachine Review."

Tom is survived by his life partner, Chal Cochran of San Francisco, and a multitude of friends and admirers.

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In Loving Memory of

Harold Edward Blaine

Oct. 2, 1961 -
Feb. 4, 1998



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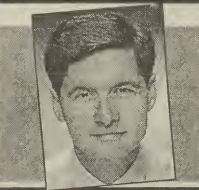


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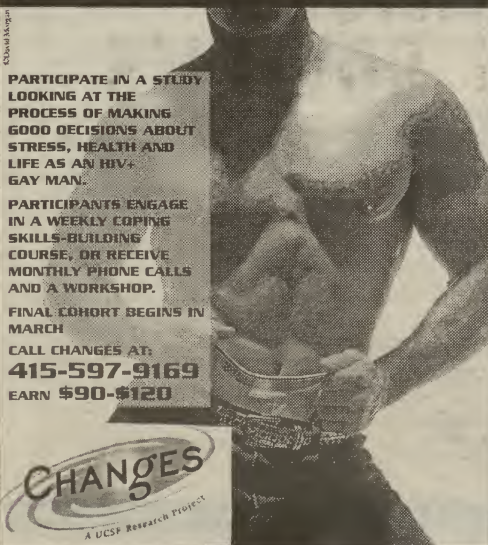
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Mileage

by Jim Provenzano

What do pro golfers Payne Stuart, Tony Lima, and Philip Scrutton, rowing champ Phil Stubbs, San Diego Chargers running back Rodney Culver, Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer, race car drivers Al Holbert, Graham Hill, Ron Flockhart, Alan Kulwicki, Curtis Turner, Richie Panch and Davey Allison, Phoenix Suns center Nick Vanos, New York Nets forward Wendell Ladner, Pittsburgh baseball outfielder Roberto Clemente, San Francisco Giants pitcher Nestor Chavez, Chicago Cubs second baseman Ken Hubbs, St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Charlie Peete, Baltimore Orioles catcher Thomas Gastall, Cincinnati Reds pitcher Marvin Gooden, Alabama halfback John McBride, French boxing champion Marcel Cerdan, Toronto Maple Leafs hockey player Bill Barilko, Spanish gymnastics champion Joaquin Blume, the 1958 Egyptian fencing team, the Zambian national soccer team, the Alianza Lima football team, the 1980 U.S. Olympic boxing team, the Marshall University football team, the Old Christians rugby team, the Wichita State College football team, the 1969 Bolivian soccer team, the Lamar Tech track team, the 1961 Green Cross Chilean soccer team, the U.S. figure skating team, the 1960 Cal Poly San Luis Obispo football team, the 1958 Manchester United football team, the 1949 Torino soccer team, and Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne all have in common?

They all, or most of their members, met their maker at 30,000 feet.

They met the Spirit in the Sky with their tray tables in an upright position.

They did not get a chance to float down on an inflatable raft attached to an emergency exit.

The oxygen masks may or may not have dropped down for their convenience as they soared into the clear blue yonder.

"On a long enough time line, the survival rate for everyone drops to zero."

— from Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club*

You know the creepiest thing about the Alaska Airlines Flight 261 crash news coverage? Its utter familiarity.

Yes, we loved their latest set of commercials. Yes, we hated their little missives, prayer cards with quotes from the Bible that were set on your tray table along with your single serving muffin breakfast snack.

Yes, it is horrible that another cluster of people died for "unknown" black box reasons.

But what's annoying is how famous dead people get more attention than our regular schmoe.

Leg men

The most infamous sports crash occurred on October 13, 1972, when the Old Christians rugby team, near San Fernando, Chile, crashed in a Fairchild Hiller FH-227D in the Andes. It flew into a mountain wave, leading to loss of control. Found 72 days after the crash, the team had resorted to cannibalism to stay alive. Luckily, they were soccer players, so drumsticks were the entree. Twenty-



Would you like to fly in my beautiful...

nine of 45 aboard were killed via either impact or sandwich. The movie *Alive* is based on this crash.

I keep meaning to rent it, simply because the idea of watching anyone gnaw on Vincent Spano's thigh has a certain appeal.

One thing about sex, there is a carnivorous aspect to it, desires of the flesh and all. And it's been pretty well established that most athletes are treated like meat anyway.

One thing I like to do whenever I fly is keep my boots on. I like to think that should I ever be involved in such an emergency, like the narrator of *Fight Club*, like the protagonist in the film and book *Fearless*, like Karen Black in *Airport '75*, I might freak at first, but eventually chill and save some

housewife and a snooty entrepreneur clacking away on his PC, flying ain't fun no more. Rarely does one meet someone half as interesting as a Tyler Durden.

So the guilt-free prospect of being decimated at a few thousand miles an hour looks pretty good, especially in the company of potential Olympians.

Now of course, lots of ordinary non-athletic folk perish in plane crashes. A few singers, too, and strangely, a lot of astronauts. If you're interested in checking out the crash record of your frequent flyer plan, visit www.plane crash-info.com.

If you're expecting the replants on the evening news to pursue the explanation as to why more and more plane crashes occur, and not fill the airwaves with treacherous human interest pieces on the grieving relatives of the in-flight deceased, you will be disappointed.

The team had resorted to cannibalism to stay alive. Luckily, they were soccer players, so drumsticks were the entree.

lives. The best way to do this is be able to walk through the piles of metal shards and flaming foam seats, provided I have all my limbs.

Like a rock star, like a Willy Loman selling _____ (insert innovative e-commerce product here), any pro jock will tell you that playing the sport isn't the hard part.

It's the airports.

Lugging your stuff, being X-rayed, rabid fans, cramping yourself into a "seating area" you wouldn't be able to bear on land for more than two minutes, being X-rayed again; planes and their accordant toilets, salesdogs yakking on cell phones mid-pee, s'more rabid fans; it's all without a doubt the true mechanical preparation for hell, with a Starbucks cart to keep you peppy.

Keeping healthy while jaggging around with Eau de Jet Fuel, your spine crunched into the shape of a Rubik's Cube, tossed peanuts by hair-impaired spacetrans, cramped between an asthmatic

But what's the gay angle? There's always a gay angle. A familiar pattern occurs in the lives of closeted pro jocks. They could only find romance on the road. Dave Pallone. Billy Bean. Even former pro football player David Kopay had to leave San Francisco to get some nookie during the *Boogie Nights* era, even when he was a 49er. Go figure.

But what if you end up on a plane full of jocks? A pro bowler? A whole team?

I'd say make the most of it. Odds are you're gonna end up on America's Funniest Corporate Exposions anyway.

But say you survive a group flight with a team in tow. I'd say, make the most of that, too. Flirt. Upgrade to business class.

But if they start playing a Richie Valens, Patsy Cline or Buddy Holly tribute over the pre-flight Muzak, take the bus. ▼

Jim Provenzano is currently in transit.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Open Hand

◀ page 2

homes each week – were asked last July to choose between one or the other program. “Seven out of 10 people chose just groceries, and that’s a big change from what we use to be about,” commented Nolan.

The grocery program will continue to be reserved for people with disabling HIV and AIDS, as it is reportedly at capacity now.

Nolan also said there was a “growing awareness of other illnesses” within his organization. For over a year, “without any harm to the HIV program,” Project Open Hand has delivered 900 lunches daily to seniors at 17 sites throughout San Francisco, after picking up a \$1 million city contract relinquished by the Salvation Army, which did not want to comply with the city’s equal benefits ordinance. Nolan said that the contract has actually helped pay for some of the HIV program by funding chefs and other staff.

“From the beginning,” Nolan added, “we’ve had what we called ‘Ruth’s list,’” a group of 30 to 40 people who were permitted to access the food services due to debilitating conditions other than HIV/AIDS. Nolan explained that Project Open Hand’s founder, Ruth Brinker’s “vision when she started this was that soon the epidemic would be over, and this organization would be able to serve others.”

Nolan said that other similar AIDS organizations across the country are considering broadening their mission beyond AIDS, and are watching Project Open Hand to gauge their own likelihood of success. Locally Nolan noted that Shanti had recently expanded services to non-AIDS clients, and the AIDS Emergency Fund recently announced a fund to assist women with breast cancer.

Money a factor

As with San Francisco’s chief food program for people with HIV/AIDS, the organizations Nolan was referring to presumably are also seeking to broaden their base of financial support. While Project Open Hand’s donations from the community have grown larger in recent years due to the strong economy, the total number of individual donations has decreased from a high of about 45,000 annually to 37,000 – a drop he attributes to a declining interest from the public and the media in AIDS. He is hopeful that the changes will result in increased support from new donors, including those who, “for whatever reason,” are more interested in giving for other diseases.

With its \$8,435,000 annual budget this year, including \$1.3 million in Ryan White CARE Act funds, Project Open Hand’s funding has remained level with the previous year, excluding capital funds raised to pay for the new building it occupied three years ago.

The group reports that it spends 82 percent of its annual income on direct services to clients – considered a high figure. It employs 130 full- and part-time staff, and also benefits from the strong support of about 800 active volunteers.

Project Open Hand officials said that the specific criteria for the new “Homebound/Critically Ill” program, for people under 60 only, include one or more of the following specific conditions: bed bound; poor balance and unable to stand; must avoid all stress and physical activity; range of motion severely limited in their arms or hands; ambulation limited to 60 feet; dementia or impaired memory; and/or chemotherapy.

These conditions were selected to include people with breast can-

cer and other cancers, heart disease, multiple sclerosis, severe arthritis, as well as other serious or temporary conditions, such as broken bones or a complicated pregnancy.

Although Nolan reports having received a few calls and letters – almost all anonymously – from clients and donors opposed to the expansion of Project Open Hand’s mission, at least one client who attended last Wednesday’s meeting was not happy about it.

Bruce Schmitt, a client for over five years, said that he is “not resentful about these people being brought in; I think it’s wonderful.” But Schmitt complained about the recent requirement that HIV/AIDS clients choose between with meal delivery or a weekly bag of groceries, rather than receive both.

“A lot of people with HIV/AIDS are strapped financially,” said Schmitt, who said he has been HIV-positive for 13 and a half years.

Nolan repeatedly emphasized that the new program, made possible in part by the huge kitchen in his group’s new building, will have “no effect” on the HIV/AIDS program. He also noted that funds would not be accounted for separately for different diseases, and that the board has directed him to increasingly merge the AIDS and non-AIDS programs over time.

“What a lot of people don’t understand is that for these people under 60, they don’t have anything else,” Nolan told the *Bay Area Reporter*. “I come from a small town where if you got sick, Mrs. Jones made a stew. And we’re reproducing that here.” ▼

To volunteer, contribute, or for information on available services, call Project Open Hand at (415) 447-2300.

HIV transmission

◀ page 17

where a second HIV infection occurred years after the first. The subject was a patient at the Ottawa Hospital in Canada who was diagnosed with HIV in 1989, a blood sample was taken and stored. He eventually went on a combination regimen and his health was stable when he began a relationship with another HIV-positive man in the fall of 1997. They did not use condoms. Soon his regimen began to fail and his disease began to progress rapidly.

The researchers ran a genetic analysis of the patient’s virus from 1989 and 1998. The latter sample contained gene segments that were not present in the early sample, and were unlikely to have evolved from it. Those new segments did match segments found in his partner’s virus. Angel concluded that superinfection had occurred and led to more rapid progression of HIV disease.

Further complicating the infectious picture is the story of prostitutes in Nairobi, Kenya, whom researchers have followed for years. The women did not seem to become infected with HIV despite repeated exposure to the virus. Researchers speculated that something in their immune system allowed them to fight off infection. It was the basis for hope that a preventative vaccine could be developed.

But increasing numbers of the women began turning seropositive. It came when they either retired from the profession or adopted safer sex practices that reduced their exposure to HIV. The

ironic hypothesis that observers have proposed is that it was the very massiveness of their exposure to HIV that somehow contributed to the prostitute’s protection.

Post-exposure prevention

Healthcare workers exposed to HIV on the job through needle sticks or other means have long had the option of immediately beginning a month of antiviral therapy. The theory was that it might knock out the virus before infection could become established. There is no definitive data on the effectiveness of this approach.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health and UCSF decided to try it with non-job related exposure to HIV. The Post-Exposure Prevention program offered to people within 72 hours of exposure a course of four weeks of therapy (AZT/3TC) and periodic follow-up out to one year.

San Francisco Health Director Dr. Mitchell Katz said that 401 people enrolled in the program in its first 16 months of operation. Anal sex was the greatest exposure risk at 57 percent, while oral sex was only 4 percent. More than

half, 55 percent, did not know the serostatus of their partner. These were not highly promiscuous people. Katz explained, “Even though they were high risk exposures, generally they had relatively few partners and were unlikely to have had multiple unsafe exposures.”

Repeat visitors were not common, only 12 percent within six months. Katz related how one young man returned four times in five months, each time vowing to be more careful having sex with his HIV-positive boyfriend. It has been eight months since his last visit. “When you think about behavioral change, that is not surprising,” Katz said. “Many people quit smoking or drinking multiple times until it sticks. It is not a failure if ultimately we were able to work with him to stop putting himself at risk.”

None of the participants have become infected with HIV. But Katz is not claiming that PEP prevented infections. “In a cohort this size you wouldn’t necessarily expect to see any seroconversions.” He called PEP “a reason for high risk people to talk to a doctor and be counseled to prevent future exposures.” ▼

No on Knight

◀ page 3


cisco starts at 7:30 p.m. with a cocktail party. Walking the ramp from 8:30-10:30 p.m. will be “male, female, and transgender models, reflecting San Francisco’s look of the millennium.” San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno will host.

And deejay Blackstone will raise the roof for people to “dance and be raucous against homo-

phobia” from 11 p.m.-4 a.m.

Advance tickets for the event are \$20 and available at 555 Hayes Street, The Bar on Castro, or (888) TIX-ONLY. Tickets will be \$25 at the door. ▼

For more information on No on Knight/No on Proposition 22 events, call (415) 227-1020. Or visit www.NoOnKnight.org, where direct donations can be made.



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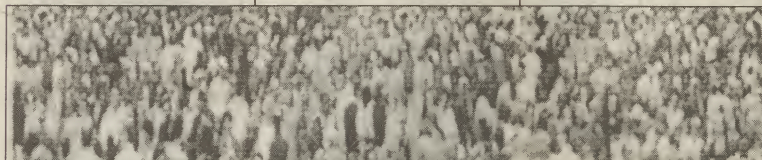
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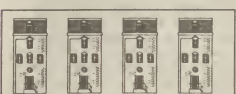
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STATEMENT FILE NO.238100

The following person(s) are doing business as, Mt. Sunflower, 781 Kansas Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Robin Sutherland. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/31/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/31/2000.
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STATEMENT FILE NO.238024

The following person(s) are doing business as, Fringe Media, Odd Shots Media, Notorious Publications, 584 Castro Street #489, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jim James. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/27/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on

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STATEMENT FILE NO.237808

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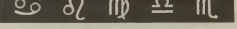
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Richard Dindo's films
explore absent heroes.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 6 • 10 February 2000

Minority shuffle Blacks, queers and television

by Victoria A. Brownworth

At the start of the fall season last year, the NAACP threatened a class action suit against the major networks, citing the dearth of people of color on TV. The networks made changes; some shows altered the color spectrum of their programs, and others kept it status quo. But in drawing attention to the issue, the NAACP shattered the complacency of network executives whose focus groups and Nielsen ratings rule programming.

The nation is 13 percent black. Until the next census, African Americans remain the largest racial minority in the US, though the expectation is that they will be surpassed by Latinos by 2005. Theoretically, TV mirrors the demographics of the country — just as you can drive through states in the Midwest and never see someone of color, you can surf channels in prime time and never see a nonwhite face. Conversely, just as you could drive through certain big cities and only see people of color — in North Philadelphia, the Bronx, South Central LA, Chicago's South Side — you can surf UPN and the WB at certain prime time hours and see nothing but African Americans.

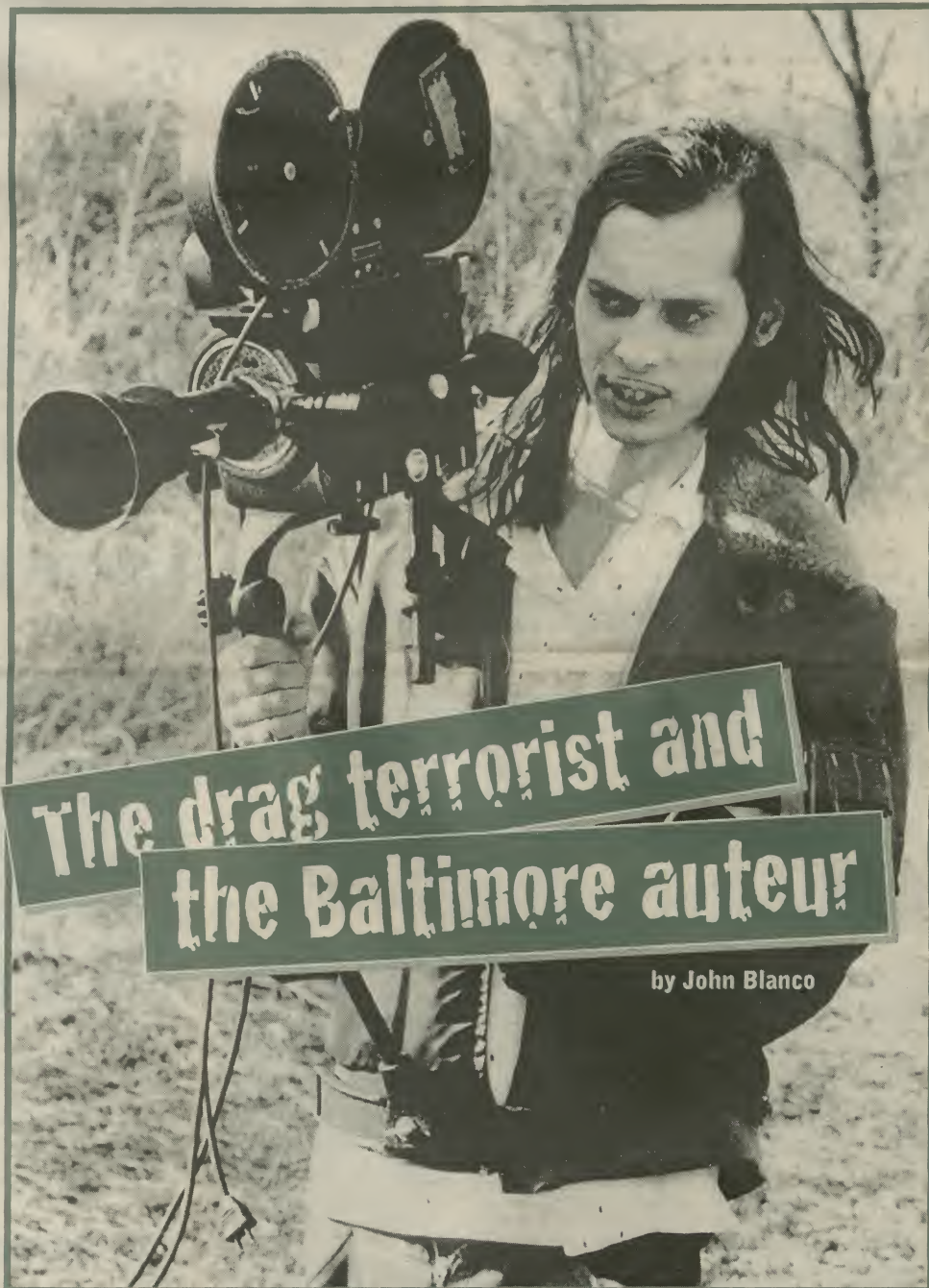
So what's the problem?

It's that pesky thing called diversity. In real life, most of us see people of different races in the course of our daily routine. At work, on public transportation, on the streets, in shops, at our places of worship and community centers. Our children, even the privileged ones in private schools, will be in classes with children of other races. Television, as the cultural locus of the nation and the primary news agency as well, should reflect the diversity of the nation as a whole. That means mixing it up. Some segregated programming may be acceptable — a black sit-com here, a white sit-com there. But when the majority of programming is utterly racially segregated, then the reflection is not of the culture as a whole, but of a country 30 years behind the civil rights movement.

Queer angel

Last month, CBS premiered the first black drama series ever on TV. *City of Angels* is produced by Steven Bochco, who created some of TV's best series, like the Emmy-winning *NYPD Blue*, and Paris Barclay, supervising producer, writer and director for *Blue*, and the only out black queer in network TV. *Angels* stars Blair Underwood and Viveca A. Fox, both of whom have cachet with black and

page 37 ►



The tone is so respectful and the praise for his subject's film work is so lavish that it almost seems director Steve Yeager could be profiling a William Wyler or a George Stevens rather than the Prince of Puke himself, John Waters, with the documentary *Divine Trash*. The film, which begins a two-week run at the Roxie Cinema on Friday, does reveal a few crucial differences between Waters and those directors of old Hollywood. Wyler, for instance, never forced Barbra Streisand to eat dog shit on the set of *Funny Girl*, nor did Stevens keep Katherine Hepburn food-deprived and hopped up on speed during the making of *Alice Adams*.

The tales of drug use and coprophagy by Waters' actors enliven what is a well-crafted if surprisingly conventional and even tasteful

John Waters' early career explored in *Divine Trash*

documentary on the early career of the ever-tasteless director, from his childhood film obsessions to the making of his cult breakthrough, 1972's *Pink Flamingos*. Yeager, a friend of Waters for over 30 years, interviews not only the surviving members of *Flamingos'* drug-damaged cast but also Waters' friends, family and the mother of Waters' muse, the late Divine. He also makes good use of a trove of Waters' home movies, family photos, clips of his early films, and footage Yeager himself shot on the set of *Pink Flamingos*. So while Yeager's friendship with Waters may prevent him from offering a critical look at the director's work, his access to Waters' personal and film archive more than compensates.

Early in *Divine Trash*, we're treated to grainy home-movie images

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SAN FRANCISCO BALLET PREFERS 

by Roberto Friedman and Comedy Tonight

Kimo's therapy: The classic Polkstrasse bar on the corner of Polk 'n' Pine has kicked off a Gay Comedy series, 8 p.m. on Monday nights, to fill the void for gay open mike created when Josie's Cabaret folded. We went to the first show, which provided ready laughs from a varied lineup of seasoned pros (Page Hurwitz, Bridget Schwartz, Pippi Lovestocking) and relative newcomers (Blake and Miracle Malone seemed particularly twisted — and we mean that in a good way). Schwartz cracked us up with her plaint that Financial District yuppies look down on her because she's an office receptionist, and call her a crack whore. "I'm not even a crack whore! I'm an assistant crack whore!"

Seems like Kimo's might fill in for the late, lamented Josie's on this score. The host and booker Nick Leonard previously appeared not only on Josie's stage, but in front of the grill in the kitchen, makin' up a whole mess of brunch. Didn't Josie's have a valid food and liquor license? The noodle house that wants to open there apparently can't get one.

But Out There started talking about comics and wound up talking about noodles. Six degrees of separation, man. Like, we thought we were going to the circus, **Cirque du Soleil's Dralion** on opening night, but our attention drifted from the acrobats jumping through hoops, and we found ourselves mostly staring at the audience. Folk goddess Joan Baez was sitting next to blonde bombshell Sharon Stone, with hubby Phil Phenomenon inevitably attached. We scoped "comic genius" Robin Williams in the VIP tent, but we didn't ask him how it felt to be unburdened of that overused mantle in a deflating piece by the *NY Times* just days before. That would be tacky.

"Wow! You have good seats!"



Juggler Viktor Kee has balls in Cirque du Soleil's Dralion

ejaculated the cute Cirque usher-boy as we whisked past with Pepi. "Can I sit in your lap?"

Anyway, If Sharon was attached to her Phil, Out There was attached to our spicy crabcakes the following night, at the opening of Lapis restaurant over at Pier 33. As in lapis lazuli, we guess, though the drapes were brownish, and the view, a stunning, up-close one of the Bay, approaching ferries and barge traffic, was watery, but not azure blue.

Blue as in blue movies was the theme of a "Media Extravaganza" night at the Nob Hill Adult Theatre on Monday night. How do we get invited to these things? And on a school night! But hob-nobbin' at the Nob was fun, and the comely performers were friendly — even the one who said, "Oops! 9:30! End of my shift!" just as Out There was getting up-close and personal.

Happy VD

Dateline: San Francisco, V-Day minus four. Here we are, already nipping at the heels of Hallmark's Love Holiday, and there might be a lot o' love goin' around, but it sure ain't coming from the direction of the mouths with the microphones. In our little cowtown, it's been a week for speaking your mind, and damn the consequences! We now know, for example, that ACT artistic director Carey Perloff is not considering a big career move to Los Angeles any time soon. "I remember directing [Samuel] Beckett's *Happy Days* at the Mark Taper Forum in LA in 1990," Perloff told the *New York Times* last week. "I remember saying: 'We really have to have good program notes or something, because they're going to think it's *Happy Days* the TV series.' If you walk in expecting the *Fonz*, you're going to find it really hard to understand Beckett." That's right, and for Los Angelenos, *Baywatch* is their *Waiting for Godot*.

Then, in his tepid review of *Dralion*, SF Examiner critic Robert Hurwitz complained of

Ukrainian juggler Viktor Kee's act that it "seems more geared to showing off his musculature than his expertise." And the problem is? We challenge Mr. Hurwitz to throw a ball up in the air and catch it in the small of his back. If he even has a small there. And that's not all Mr. Kee can do with balls. (For a queer perspective, catch Richard Dodds' review in these pages.) How did we wind up at the bottom of this paragraph?



A young Liberace

Queen's castle

Meantime, the wheels of publicity roll on. The Palm Springs p.r. machine informs us that Casa de Liberace, the 7,000 square-ft. Spanish-style estate of "ultra-flamboyant entertainer Liberace" (mustn't say the word gay), is now open for group tours of 50 or more. The guided tours will presumably include visits to the 10-person Jacuzzi surrounded by mirrors; the circus- and zebra-themed guest bedrooms; and the "king's throne" toilet in the master bath. The Big Lib also had guest rooms named after his mother's favorite personalities, heartthrob Rudolph Valentino and French bad girl Marie Antoinette. This tiny glimpse into Mother's psychology may help to explain the sacred monster that was Liberace.

For more information than Out There wanted to know, call the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority at (760) 770-9000. ▼

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THEATRE

Back door follies

'Barebacking, a Sex Panic! Comedy'

by Richard Dodds

How do you top "Springtime for Hitler" for offensive hilarity? John Fisher outdoes Mel Brooks with a musical number on the glories of barebacking and other anal pleasures, culminating with a grinning chorus boy with what one trusts is chocolate syrup slathered across his mouth.

It's just one of the many groaningly funny moments in *Barebacking, A Sex Panic! Comedy* that emerges more as a self-mocking paean to low-budget theater than a treatise on condom-free sex. Not that the issue doesn't arise, but usually as bursts of straightforward debates that mostly seem intended to justify the title.

Fisher (*Medea - the Musical, Combat!*) has said that in the time since Theatre Rhino commissioned him to write the play, it evolved from its original intentions. But with the provocative *Barebacking* title announced and established, the playwright-director may not have felt comfortable backing away more fully from the earlier concept.



Enver Gjokaj and Paul Tena in Theatre Rhino's *Barebacking*

That's too bad, because when the serio-political remnants do appear, they tend to sidetrack a

sense of comic outrageousness that may be unparalleled on local stages. Certainly there is nothing amiss in mixing serious strains in with the comedic. It is even praiseworthy when done with a motivated seamlessness that too often is missing here.

But as a vaudeville about putting on a show at a theater not

page 35 ►

Intellectual go-go

NCTC's 'The Rice Room'

by Richard Dodds

It's only 50 minutes long, but Noel Alumit packs a lot of lives into *The Rice Room*. Subtitled *Scenes from a Bar*, the one-man show at the New Conservatory Theatre Center uses the titular watering hole as the common ground for six very different gay Asians. As character studies, the portraits can be richly entertaining, but as a window onto the gay Asian-American world, these intersecting lives provide frustratingly few insights.

"I totally love my job," says a go-go boy in a Valley-speak accent in the play's opening scene. As he gyrates to the throbbing music, he talks about rocket science and his adoration of Sir Isaac Newton. Maybe the notion of an intellectual go-go boy is meant to be an Asian thing, but if so, it is subtle and unspoken.

With a few exceptions, the cultural ramifications of being gay and Asian are addressed with intellectual detachment when they are addressed at all. A flamboyant drag queen could be of any background, and a tough guy who empathizes more with Andrew Cunanan than Matthew Shepard adds only a parenthetical reference about being Asian when he describes his encounter with gay bashers.

But unto itself, this character is an intriguing one, especially as he recounts Rashomon-like his brief conversation with a nerdy office worker who has already painted a far different impression of their encounter. The office worker is another of Alumit's superior creations, though again only momentarily focused on Asian issues.

But maybe that's the point, if a dramatically unexciting one. In the milieu of *The Rice Room*, being Asian is hardly exotic, and in this little world at least, racial and cul-



Noel Alumit in *The Rice Room*

tural differences are saved for the outside world. Still, it would be interesting for an outsider, and probably for some Asians as well, to know how cultural traditions and assimilation are affected by gay lifestyles.

We do get a hint of that in the reminiscences of a fussy older queen who remembers a time when Asians were often kept out of gay bars. And the cultural divide is certainly present in a comically naive Filipino who comes to the United States with dreams of being cast in *Miss Saigon*.

The engaging Alumit, himself of Filipino background, is both a writer and performer of sharply observed details. Under Deborah Nishimura's direction, Alumit smoothly and impressively moves among his characters. But in *The Rice Room*, too often it's a converted rice that is being served. ▼

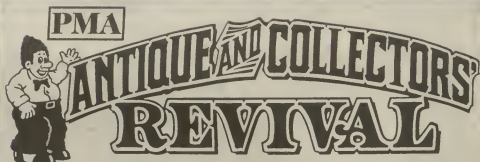
The Rice Room: Scenes from a Bar will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Feb. 20. Tickets are \$15-\$17. Call 861-8972.



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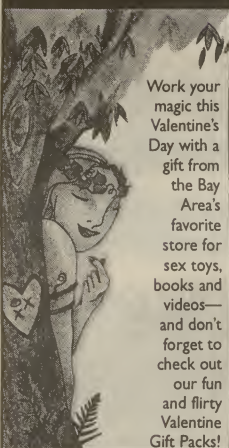
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Fairy tale romance

'Boy Meets Boy' opens New Conservatory Theatre Center's 'In Concert' series

by Richard Dodds

With 42nd Street Moon moving to new quarters at the Eureka Theatre, its former landlord figured there was an audience in the habit of heading to the New Conservatory Theatre Center for musicals. Thus, NCTC's *In Concert* series was born.

Focusing on musicals of recent decades, the new program is not designed to be a gay series, though that might be hard to deduce from the opening line-up. *Boy Meets Boy* launches the three-show series this week, with *Side by Side* by Sondheim and *The Harvey Milk Show* arriving in the coming months.

"We did put that angle in this year," said NCTC's artistic director Ed Decker, "to appeal to our Pride season subscribers. But next season, only one of the three or four pieces might have that particular angle. It's not really meant to be a gay concert program."

Some titles that Decker is considering for the staged-concert treatment are *Pippin*, *Forever Plaid*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Triumph of Love*, *Passion*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, and *A New Brain*.

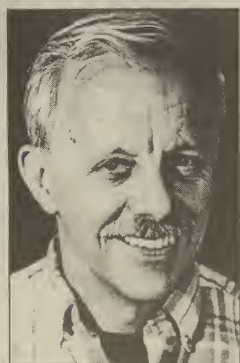
"We're going to try to produce musicals that date from the '70s forward," Decker said, "while 42nd Street Moon tends to do show from well before that period."

Although *Boy Meets Boy* was first produced in 1975, and its title certainly suggests a contemporary romance, its setting would be very much at home in one of 42nd Street Moon's golden oldies.

The musical is set in 1936 and opens in London's Savoy Hotel. It is the eve of the abdication of King Edward VIII, and romance is in the air. In the world of *Boy Meets Boy*, men can marry men, and it's accepted in the play as an unremarkable given of society.

"But that notion was regarded as shocking when we first tried to produce it," said Bill Solly, who wrote the songs and co-authored the musical's script. "The show was sort of revolutionary, even though it's basically a fairy tale."

The Canadian-born Solly, now in his late 60s and a New York resident, was living in London and writing specialty material for such celebrities as Danny La Rue, Petula Clark, Maurice Chevalier, and Dusty Springfield, when he and co-author Donald Ward concocted the idea for *Boy Meets Boy*.



Bill Solly



Joan Mankin, Brad DePlanche, Susannah Schulman, and Adam Gavzer in Aurora Theatre Company's production of *The Comedy of Errors*

They hadn't been able to find an interested producer in London when a small New York theater offered to present it. "That was one of the reasons I first came to New York," Solly said, "because I had never heard of the group, and I thought I should direct it myself."

When a neighborhood association got wind of what the theater was planning to present, it raised a fuss, and the theater folded before the musical could open. "And that was in Greenwich Village, believe it or not," Solly said.

Finally, *Boy Meets Boy* found a home in an off-Broadway theater, where it ran for two years. "We got a homophobic kind of review in *The New York Times*, which was very homophobic at that point," Solly said. "They changed their tune a few years later."

Of course, presenting gay marriage as a normal state of affairs was ahead of its time. "And just to rub salt in the wound," Solly said, "we also have something in there about the Boy Scouts. It couldn't be more timely."

And to underscore that timeliness, the Feb. 10 performance of *Boy Meets Boy* will benefit the No on Knight campaign. For more info on the benefit or the *In Concert* series, call 861-8972.

Repeating his errors

Danny Scheie is directing his fourth production of *The Comedy of Errors*, and he's already signed up for a fifth. "I joke that it's kind of like my *Hello, Dolly!* with Carol Channing," he said, "but there's something to be said for doing something over and over. To know a piece of art this well is very rewarding."

Scheie's latest production begins performances this week in the Aurora Theatre's diminutive home in the Berkeley City Club. It's just a block away from where he first directed Shakespeare's early comedy at UC Berkeley.

"It was the basis for my dissertation on queer Shakespeare," Scheie said. "Where does all this queer stuff in Shakespeare start, and I find little seeds of it in *Comedy of Errors*."

A 1993 production at Shakespeare Santa Cruz was a critical and popular success, and it provides the mold for the current

production. "But this one is even simpler and more attenuated and rough," he said. "What makes it work is that I can do this full-length Shakespeare play that has millions of characters and is supposed to take place in Turkey with eight actors on a little stage with just a set of curtains."

Scheie is having fun with the conventions of theater with this production, as the actors must find increasingly creative ways to play the multiple characters. "The wigs are flying over the set," he said. "And in that tiny little theater where audiences are practically on top of the stage, it's really challenging and fun to try to get away with stuff, because you have to invite the audience in."

Does Scheie consider this a gay production? "It's gay in the way that Charles Ludlam's *The Mystery of Irma Vep* is gay," he said. "There are women playing men and men playing women. When I've directed this play, straight people have really liked it, too. They buy into it in a way they haven't bought into some of my other truly queer Shakespeare."

"There are things that make gay people laugh harder than straight people, and it's not always something you can put your finger on. But it's where I really like to work as a director and an actor."

For ticket information on *The Comedy of Errors*, call (510) 843-4822.

Reviews in a New York minute

Four days in a cold, cold New York, tickets to four plays, and herewith four quick takes on those show.

Mae West, obsessed fans, cross-dressing, and love among the ruins is the stuff of *Dirty Blonde*, a marvelous play by Claudia Shear that deserves life after its limited run at the New York Theatre Workshop. Shear plays West from her early days in vaudeville to her final days as a living museum piece. Shear also plays one of two West fans whose relationship finds an unexpected outlet in silver lamé. A charming work.

Dinner with Friends, which has become an off-Broadway sleeper hit, is a funny, wise, and sad look at the destabilizing effect a failed marriage has on another couple. Written by David Margulies, whose *Collected Stories* was seen at Berkeley Rep last year, the play re-

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DANCE

The three faces of Balanchine

SF Ballet's Gala and Program I

by Stephanie von Buchau

I'm not a socialist, and I understand that, when the rich have a good time at the San Francisco Ballet's annual Gala, they are helping pay for an entire season. Impoverished balletomanes, who can't afford the curried crab, Jean-Paul Gaultier tuxedos, or Tahitian pearl necklaces breathlessly described in our press kits, will enjoy the beautiful music and dancing paid for by this conspicuous consumption.

Yet when the press releases inform us what the jewels cost (the Tahitian number was valued at \$133,500), but neglect to mention anything about the evening's music save the composer's name, one has to agree with Oscar Wilde that too many people know the price of everything and the value of nothing. Having got that off my chest, it's possible that I was so exercised by the evening's commercialism because this year's Gala was a choreographically puny affair, with no interesting new work and too many old party pieces trotted out for the umpteenth predictable time.

Interest was supposed to center on SFB's first Roland Petit ballet, a snippet from a full-length work called *Proust*. It consisted of an acrobatic duet for a man dressed in 19th-century striped shirt and trousers (Yuri Possokhov, who excels at looking demented) and a dead girl (Lucia Lacarra). I have no idea which part of *Remembrances of Things Past* this necro number refers to; it certainly has nothing to do with Proust, who was homosexual and, as far as I know, not given to necrophilia.

A non-critical acquaintance rolled his eyes at the intermission and said, "I don't ever want to see *Tarantella* again. Can't they give it a rest?" Ditto *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux* and those bleeding chunks of *Who Cares?* All by Balanchine, alas, not a choreographer who lends himself to excerpts or entertainment, as was clearly demonstrated last week by Program I, an all-Balanchine evening chosen for its variety, elegance and artistic seriousness. When people complain that the classical arts are "elitist," they are fools, but Balanchine's musical high-mindedness is what they are talking about.

The evening opened with *Serenade* (1935), originally set for the girls of Lincoln Kirstein's School of American Ballet. I remember *Serenade* from the bad old Lew Christensen days at SFB ('50s and '60s), when the girls probably looked like Balanchine's originals, lumpy and out-of-phase. One night the boys carrying Linda Meyer aloft almost dumped her on her head. Neither Joanna Berman nor Lucia Lacarra was in danger, both arching their backs fearlessly as they were carried to Elysium.

Of the three works on Program I, *Serenade* distills the most emotion from pure dance. *Symphony in Three Movements* (1972; new to SFB) may well be a masterpiece, but it is the type of work that makes people think of Mr. B as cold, cerebral and mechanistic. He always took his cues from the music, and Stravinsky's "Hollywood" score, with its brash Amer-



Yuri Possokhov and Lucia Lacarra in *Symphony in Three Movements*

ican rhythms, crude jazz interludes and jackhammer percussion, is not pretty music. The orchestra, under Emil de Cou, played the Stravinsky smashingly. It obviously got all the rehearsal time, for on opening night, Tchaikovsky's *Serenade* was butchered, with bobbled attacks, out-of-breath string figures, and a waltz as lumpy as my mashed potatoes.

Return of 'Prodigal Son'

The next night, with wholesale cast changes, the Tchaikovsky sounded fine, though not as rapturous as when the late Denis de Coteau was in the pit. But the star of Program I is British conductor Patrick Flynn, who leads Prokofiev's goose-stepping, goose-bumping *Prodigal Son*. This is Balanchine in his frankly emotional mode, yet I prefer the subtleties of *Serenade* or the cruel

calculations of *Symphony in Three Movements*. But *Prodigal* had been promised to the indecently talented Cuban, Joan Boada, and so on it went, coached by Helgi Tomasson, Elyse Borne and Gloria Govrin, all of whom worked directly with Balanchine.

Their staging was meticulous, with fine attention to detail, but all the spontaneity was squeezed out of the opening night cast. Boada has the elevation and the cleanly articulated steps and gestures — the rebellious kid pounding his thighs in frustration or sending silent screams of protest over being housebound by his rigid, Talmudic father. Yet robbed, sexually abused and stripped, Boada hung there like a Christ on black velvet — physically beautiful but shallow, seemingly empty of expression. The final tableau, when the forgiving father (Val Ca-

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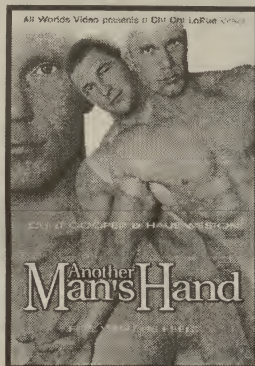
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Absent heroes

Richard Dindo films at SF Cinematheque

by Gary Morris

My films revolve around absence," Swiss documentarian Richard Dindo has said, but the phrase, however felicitous, is misleading. While it's true that the subjects of most his documentaries are dead and thus literally "absent" from the frame, his films also have a greater feeling of "presence" — in the Buddhist sense of existing "in the moment" — than the work of most of his peers. Dindo achieves this effect by relying primarily on eyewitness accounts, original texts, and authentic environments and landscapes to gradually immerse the viewer in the world of his subjects, who range from writers (Arthur Rimbaud, Max Frisch) to artists (Auschwitz casualty Charlotte Salomon) to revolutionaries (Che Guevara) to ordinary citizens who perform extraordinary acts and suffer for them (Paul Gröninger). Three of his films are being shown this month at the SF Cinematheque, giving a welcome opportunity to assess some of the work of a brilliant, undeservedly obscure filmmaker.

Dindo, born in 1944, made his first film in 1970, and has added more than a dozen since then, no mean feat for a filmmaker working in this realm. A Marxist by inclination, Dindo gravitates to rebels, but his work is far from visual agitprop. He has a formalist sensibility that gives a sense of beauty and possibility, even to the most downbeat material.

The first of the three films to be shown at SF Cinematheque, the 1997 *Gröninger's Fall* (Feb. 10), is a riveting reconstruction of the fate of a police captain whose activities in helping Jews illegally cross the Austrian border into Switzerland to escape the Nazis proved his personal undoing. Paul Gröninger forged entry dates, personally escorted some of the émigrés, and socialized with them in spite of Switzerland's notorious anti-Semitism. *Gröninger's Fall*, based on Stefan Keller's book of the same name, is set mostly in the courtroom where he was tried. Dindo assembles some of his relatives, Jews he helped escape, and fellow policemen to



From Richard Dindo's *Gröninger's Fall*, 1997

portray both Gröninger himself (he died in 1972) and the historical forces that did him in. The sterility of the courtroom is ironically counterpointed by the sometimes intensely emotional testimony of those who survived through Gröninger's efforts. St. Gallen's refusal to "rehabilitate" him until the mid-1990s speaks volumes about the climate that allowed Austria and Switzerland's embrace, acknowledged or not, of the Nazi ideology, and the recent ascension of a former, and probably present, Nazi sympathizer to power in Austria makes the film especially timely.

Che sera sera

Second up is Dindo's most widely seen work, the 1994 *Ernesto Che Guevara: The Bolivian Diary* (Feb. 17). The film masterfully re-creates Che's famous trek through the poor villages and rugged countryside of Bolivia with a small band of 50 committed soldiers — mostly Cubans and Bolivians. His goal was to "create a central nerve center in Bolivia" from which he could spark a peasant revolution. Ego and infighting prevented the Bolivian Communist Party from aligning with him, and there is no evidence that Castro offered help or even publicized his former colleague's radical step. This sense of isolation and near-futility permeates Che's diary of this event and thus the film, which uses large portions of this document as a voiceover.

The film retraces much of Che's journey, the camera wandering through desolate valleys and rocky cliffs while Che's words

are read on the soundtrack. These scenes were videotaped rather than shot on film, to give the landscape an intimate intensity as the outward manifestation of his interior struggle. Che's words are resigned but also have a poetic immediacy; in one sequence, he describes one of his comrades being swept away by a river as "our baptism of death in an absurd manner on the shores of the Rio Grande." Dindo managed to locate some of the peasants Che described — still living in squalor almost three decades after his death — and reprises Che's deathbed promise to create a better life for them. Dindo's use of primary sources and his re-creation of Che's journey seduces the viewer into the story without resorting to sentimentality or sensationalism.

The last of the series is the 1991 *Arthur Rimbaud: A Biography* (Feb. 20), which, uncharacteristically but successfully, uses actors to portray some of the people involved in the gay poet's life. The film is one of Dindo's most impressive, with Rimbaud retrieved from history through some of the director's most inventive strategies. While Dindo is known for his static camera, which lets a subject or a landscape speak for itself, here he alternates that approach with gorgeously dreamlike sequences in which the camera glides across a forest or a river with Rimbaud's words heard in voiceover. These scenes attain added spiritual power through the use of blue filters that distinguish them from the rest of the

next page ►



From Richard Dindo's *Ernesto "Che" Guevara*, 1994

Barebacking

◀ page 31

unlike Theatre Rhino, *Barebacking* is often laugh-out-loud funny. The manic Peter is the leader of a little troupe always looking for an angle to lure in gay audiences. Nudity and gay revisionism are popular tactics, as Abe Lincoln has a song-and-dance fling with Ulysses Grant before going in drag to Ford's Theatre, while a naked Hamlet shakes his taliwacker as he

send a TG Ophelia off to a nunnery.

Basting away

A dance class run by maniacal lesbian, the cast of a sex comedy that tries to ignore a backstage downpour, and a gay couple hilariously miming a turkey-baster conception are among the many scenes that evoke torrents of laughter. True, the turkey-baster scene is a ringer amid the theatrical motif, but it's just part of Fisher's hellzapoppin' approach that has its own delightful logic.

Various intra-theater relationships develop in the story, mostly part of the comic fabric, but there is a serious turn when Peter's former lover returns with AIDS. It may be realistic, but it doesn't feel dramatically earned. Nor does a final-curtain sermonette against HIV complacency, however appropriate, feel authentic in the context.

These momentary problems have nothing to do with the cast, which is uniformly delightful.

Paul Tena is a hoot as the hot-headed Peter, full of political jar-

gon that Tena delivers with delicious bombast. Jane Paik is breathtakingly intense, but oh-so-funny, as a dance teacher whose technique is pure torture. Jeremy Hou gets the bulk of the nude scenes, which he handles appealingly while also displaying unexpected vocal dexterity. Christopher Herold has great fun, and so do we, as the Log Cabin Republican who turns into an overly grand thespian.

There is also strong work from Enver Gjokaj as the prodigal pretty boy, Ashley Hegseth as a recur-

ring lesbian, and Charles Boyle and Jamie Marks in several roles.

Theatre Rhino provides Fisher with a welcoming forum for a no-holds-barred approach that goes beyond his already swash-buckling style. If Fisher has a hard time at being serious in *Barebacking*, his crazed comic genius has never been keener. ▼

Barebacking, a Sex Panic!
Comedy will run at Theatre Rhino through March 5. Tickets are \$14-\$25. Call 861-5079.

Backstage

◀ page 32

veals what a fragile fiction the happy family can be.

The Wild Party, seen in previews at the Manhattan Theatre Club, is one of two like-titled musicals due this season based on the same tale of Jazz Age abandon. This one has an eclectically tuneful score by Andrew Lipa, inventive staging and choreography, and strong performances. The main problem is that there just isn't two acts worth of material in the story of hanky panky at a party.

Even the *New York Times* liked *Naked Boys Singing!*, so what's the matter with me? Maybe the sight of a flaccid dick just isn't enough to arouse interest in mediocre material and performances anymore. This revue of songs about sex and longing is decidedly unerotic, and certainly not romantic. At a recent performance, giggling straight women provided the most audible support for the exposed performers.

Magic moments

To fill one of the remaining slots in its 1999-2000 season, the Magic Theatre has tapped a new work by Irish lesbian playwright Emma Donoghue. *Kissing the Witch*, opening June 2, is based on Donoghue's novel of the same name that yanks familiar fairy tales from outdated traditions. Donoghue's adaptation recently received a workshop production at the Magic Theatre's Festival of Lesbian Playwrights. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

Richard Dindo

◀ previous page

film.

Not that the film is only spiritual. Rimbaud's frenzied life, his doomed love affairs, his Svengali-like power over those around him, his artistic angst, his drudge work in Aden and Africa, and his drug addiction and early death at 37 are on full and florid display here. Dindo brings them to life through Rimbaud's own words, images of the locales in which he worked and played and suffered, and "interviews" with the principals in his life, including Paul Verlaine, who abandoned his wife to be with Rimbaud. The poet's surprisingly modern imagery and insights — "I think I'm in hell, therefore I am" is typical of one of his moods — provide much of the film's heft, but Dindo's framing of the words make them resonant even more. ▼

Excavating Space To Redeem Time: The Films of Richard Dindo plays Thursdays, Feb. 10 & 17, and Sunday, Feb. 20 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info: 558-8129.

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Looking at 'The Danish Girl'

A novelist's soft touch helps bring forgotten facts into focus

by Jameson Currier

In 1925, Danish painter Einar Wegener slipped on a pair of ladies' stockings when his wife, Greta, also a painter, asked for his help modeling for a portrait of an opera singer she was trying to complete. That moment, as detailed in David Ebershoff's eloquent first novel, *The Danish Girl*, changed the course of both of their lives. Cross-dressing became something more than a passing fancy for Einar Wegener. He soon developed a female persona known as Lili Elbe, and in 1930 was medically transformed into a woman.

Ebershoff, the 31-year-old openly gay publisher of Random House's Modern Library, says the story of Einar Wegener's transformation into Lili Elbe first caught his attention as a small item in a "boring" academic book on gender studies given to him by a friend. That mention spurred Ebershoff to look further into the story.

"I always thought Christine Jorgensen was the first transsexual, and based on that I went to the library and began to research the details," he says.

What he discovered surprised him. "It was a very big story in the 1930s and reported around the world," Ebershoff says.

Lili Elbe, born in 1886 as Einar Wegener, lived a double life for nearly two decades with his wife and companion, Gerda Wegener. Both Lili and Gerda were well-known painters and illustrators, but Gerda had a greater commercial success, and Lili became one of her favorite models. In 1930, Lili's marriage to Gerda was invalidated by the King of Denmark. Elbe's own story (written using pseudonyms) was also previously told in *Man Into Woman*, an edited account of her diaries by Niels Hoyer, which was published

posthumously in 1933.

Ebershoff explains that one of the reasons that Christine Jorgensen's case has eclipsed the notoriety of Lili Elbe is the timing of Elbe's sex-change operations.

"Right after this came a terrible period in world history that swallowed up this story," he says.

Transsexual historian Candice Brown Elliott notes that another reason was that, in Christine Jorgensen's case, she survived her surgeries for three decades, whereas Elbe did not.

"Christine also made a point of talking to, befriending, other transsexuals," Elliott says. "Lili never had that opportunity."

Gone underground

Nonetheless, Elliott points out that Lili Elbe became a sort of underground legend. "The reason the press forgot her is that her story became a dead end," Elliott says. "The two clinics where she was seen, the Dresden Women's Clinic and the Institute for Sexology in Berlin, were shut down by the Nazis in 1933." Elliott, a transsexual activist and author who teaches TransHistory at the Harvey Milk Institute in San Francisco and who publishes the Website www.transhistory.org, says that transsexuals in Germany were among the first to be rounded up and put into prisons and concentration camps. Sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld tried to restart the Institute in Paris, but the French were not supportive; he died in 1935.

"No one could follow in Lili's footsteps for twenty years," Elliott says. "Not until Harry Benjamin, another German Jew and a personal friend of Hirschfeld since 1908, started helping transsexuals in the US in 1949."

Ebershoff, who currently lives in Manhattan, and spent two years writing his novelization of Lili Elbe during his vacations and off-hours away from his full-time



Author David Ebershoff

publishing career at Random House, made a conscious decision not to portray the media frenzy that surrounded the case at the time.

"I thought going into the media explosion would add a dimension that wasn't what I was after," he says. "My intention was to write a book about a sensational story in a very quiet way, and in that quiet retelling of the story to open it up to another reading—as a love story between two people, and a story of their commitment to one another."

But Ebershoff's quiet retelling has also created a modern-day buzz. Ebershoff himself made headlines when his unfinished novel created a bidding war among five interested publishers. Viking won the rights for a reported \$350,000 two-book deal, which also includes publishing a forthcoming collection of short stories by Ebershoff in February 2001 titled *The Dress and Other Stories*. *Publisher's Weekly*, a trade publication of the book publishing industry, recently gave *The Danish Girl* a notable "starred" review, citing the "highly empathet-

ic quality" of Ebershoff's imagination. Ebershoff is also scheduled to do an eight-city press tour, and *The Danish Girl* has already racked up an impressive sale of foreign rights, with eleven countries publishing translations of the novel. Several film studios and actors have also expressed interest in the film rights, including Dream Works, Angelina Jolie, and *Ally McBeal* co-star Gil Bellows.

Strong signal

In creating *The Danish Girl*, Ebershoff has meticulously detailed the landscapes of Copenhagen, Dresden, and Paris of this era, but he has also chosen to change or omit many facts and characters. The two children Einar reportedly fathered are not mentioned in the novel, but even more significant is the alteration of the Danish-born artist Gerda Wegener into Greta Wegener, an American "orange heiress" from

Pasadena, California, who emigrates to Denmark to become a painter. Ebershoff, also a native of Pasadena, says this Americanization was his way of sending a "very strong signal that this is a novel." Einar also becomes Greta's second husband; prior to settling in Europe, she has left behind another tragic romance.

"I wanted the story to resonate with a lot of readers, and it seemed that an American character would help with that," he says. "Greta was sort of bursting through my keyboards into the book. This character was coming from somewhere, and she seemed very alive, and I wanted to fit her in. And she helped balance out the character of Einar and Lili—they were very different personalities."

In *The Danish Girl*, one doctor diagnoses Einar as schizophrenic and another doctor suggests he undergo a lobotomy (a new pro-

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REVIEW

First crossing

by Robert Julian

The Danish Girl by David Ebershoff; Viking, \$24.95

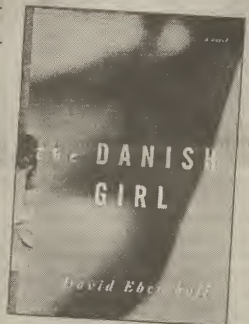
Most Americans think of the late Christine Jorgensen as the world's first male-to-female transsexual. But this unusual "first" actually belongs to the late Einar Wegener, a Danish painter whose 1931 surgery in Dresden was the first sex-change operation. First-time author David Ebershoff weaves his novel *The Danish Girl* around this historic event, incorporating some historical facts with a predominantly fictional cast of characters. The result is an engrossing story, elegantly told, that is memorable for unexpected reasons.

Dresden, Paris, Copenhagen, and Southern California serve as the backdrop for the story of Einar Wegener and his California-born wife, Greta. Einar, a successful Danish landscape painter, meets Greta when she is one of his students in Copenhagen. But Greta will go home to California, become a widow, and return to Denmark once again before she marries Einar. Their relationship is that of lovers, companions and soulmates, and Einar's first experience in cross-dressing is suggested by Greta when she asks him to stand in for one of her female models. Greta also names Einar's female alter-ego: Lili Elbe.

Einar, who was always drawn to members of his own sex, finds his gender identity shifting further toward that of a woman. A physical examination later discovers undeveloped ovaries inside Einar's stomach, one manifestation of what would now be termed an intersexed individual. Greta becomes a more famous painter than Einar because of the portraits she produces of Lili, and it is Greta who assists Einar in the search for help. Yet most medical practitioners of the time suggest lobotomy, institutionalization for schizophrenia, or imprisonment for cross-dressing. Finally, Lili finds a surgeon in Dresden who is willing to take the final step of making Einar disappear by altering his body to conform with Lili's female gender identity.

David Ebershoff's telling of this story is remarkable in its restraint and subtlety. In different hands, *The Danish Girl* would be an agitprop treatise about sexual oppression. But Ebershoff adopts a level of detachment in his novel that is very Danish, and wholly appropriate. The central relationships of the novel are Einar's relationship to Greta, and Lili's relationship to both of them. Ebershoff elects to frame the emergence of Lili's character as an unusual love triangle, one that is characterized by love, devotion, and compassion on all sides. The tone of the novel is one of wistful longing, combined with quiet determination.

The ending of *The Danish Girl* may be frustrating for some readers because it leaves Einar/Lili's fate unresolved. The book ends in 1931 with a post-operative Lili. Only in the publicity material (which the reader will not have) do we learn that she died in 1933. But Ebershoff has created a novel of quiet strength, one that illuminates the extraordinary journey of a soul in a surprisingly artful and effective fashion. ▼



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SIZZLING SATURDAY NIGHTS

TELEVISION

Minority shuffle

◀ Arts cover

white viewers. Underwood has starred in other shows, notably Bochco's *L.A. Law*, as well as films, while Fox has taken a tour through black sit-coms and black films.

Angels, which takes place in an LA teaching hospital run by and for people of color, is decent (though the gospel song fade-outs at scene-end get a bit cloying over time). It doesn't have the punch and diversity of *Blue*, and the white characters are, with one exception, stereotypical bad white folk, but the acting is solid, and Underwood's a magnet. More like a black version of *Chicago Hope* than *ER* (gore is kept to a minimum), the episodes are character-driven and always tell a moral tale.



City of Angels' Blair Underwood

Where *Angels* takes its biggest risk is in removing African Americans from their traditional TV roles — as comedians, entertainers, or peripheral characters in white-driven dramas — and putting them front-burner in dramatic roles in which they are self-determinant without white characters. A consistent pattern emerges regarding blacks on TV. When blacks appear in white programs, they act as the character who says no or impedes the white hero. Thus African Americans frequently play law enforcement officers or judges — bit parts that give an appearance of creating diversity, but which really put the black character in direct opposition to the white characters.

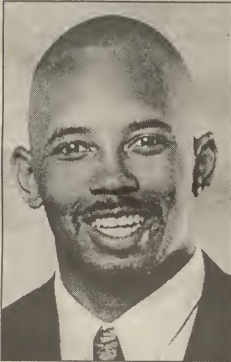
On soaps, nearly all the African American characters fall into this category. On *All My Children*, the two African American characters are an attorney and a detective; on *General Hospital*, the two African American characters are a detective and an assistant DA — this means all they do is arrest and convict white characters. But even on Emmy-winning dramas like *The Practice*, *ER*, *Law & Order* and *NYPD Blue*, all of which have had African Americans in their ensemble casts from the outset, those static roles apply. In the first two shows, the black characters are hot-heads who regularly pose problems for the white lead characters, while in the latter two, the black characters are the people in charge — the lieutenants of the squad rooms — in the position of saying no to the white characters.

On the ratings hit drama *Touched by an Angel*, Della Reese's character functions similarly — the authoritarian angel who says no to the other white angels and to the white characters they help. The same is true of the WB's top-rater, *Charmed*: the only African Americans on the show are a police detective and Pru's boss (who

only says no).

Queer mirror

The roles of blacks and queers frequently mirror each other on TV, particularly in their singularity. Often there will be only one African American character on an otherwise all-white series. This is especially true of sit-coms and soap operas. Likewise, a token queer character appears on some shows. (In the case of ABC's *Spin City*, Michael Boatman, who plays Carter, fills both roles —



Spin City's Michael Boatman

token queer and token black.) This means these characters can never have full TV lives, because they have no one to be queer and/or black with. It's a way to keep them in check — neutered. They exist but can't damage anything.

Even on *Will & Grace*, the two queers are of different stripes and thus cannot become sexual with each other. (And the one black character is in a position of power, controlling the lead gay character.) On *Ellen*, when Ellen came out, there was no one for her to be lesbian with; when another lesbian character joined the cast, the show collapsed and died. A similar fate met *Melrose Place*'s Matt; coupling forced him off the show.

ABC's soap *All My Children* ran a groundbreaking storyline for nearly a year about Kevin Sheffield, a teen connected to one of Pine Valley's better families. The storyline focused on his parents trying to deprogram his gay identity. But once that story ended and he was free to be gay, there was no one for him to be gay with — and eventually his character had to leave Pine Valley in search of a life. Kevin was the only queer character on daytime; now there are none.

African Americans have had equal difficulties in Pine Valley. Amelia Marshall left CBS's *Guiding Light* for what promised to be a meatier role on *AMC*. But once there, she found her character, Belinda, was the only non-transient black resident of the Valley. She's had some love interests — all black — but they've been hit and run. Pine Valley can't seem to keep African American men in town.

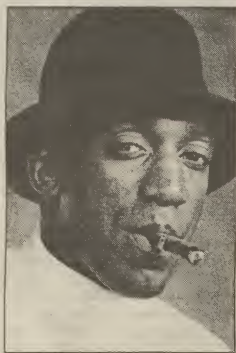
Port Charles has one black character; *General Hospital* has two. *The Bold and the Beautiful* — set in LA — has none, while *The Young and the Restless*, set in the Midwest, has several. *Days of Our Lives* has one, *As the World Turns* has one. *One Life to Live* has an African American family and a Latino family, but these characters propel white storylines. The one fully integrated soap, *Sunset Beach*, which had African American and Latino characters comprising a third of its cast, was canceled in December due to poor ratings.

California dreaming

Soaps and sit-coms have the worst records for integration — and maintaining integration. Despite their California locations, *Beverly Hills 90210* and *Melrose Place* have no black characters. Other prime time soaps — *Party of Five* and *Once and Again* — are equally pristine. ABC's *The Hughleys* is the only sit-com on any network, other than the *Cosby* show, with a consistently racially balanced cast. Though the show's main characters, the Hughleys, are black, they live in a white neighborhood, and thus interact with whites and blacks on each episode.

The top Nielsen-rated sit-com for years — *Seinfeld* — took place in New York City and had no black characters, even peripherally, until the very end. Likewise, *Ellen* was situated in LA and had no people of color.

Bill Cosby has been a singular figure on network TV for four decades, bridging the racial divide



Bill Cosby

vide almost single-handedly. He was the first African American to receive co-star status with a white actor, in the 1960s series *I, Spy*. His sit-coms have drawn consistently high ratings among white and black audiences. He's had his own drama series. And his reprise of the old Art Linkletter hit *Kids Say the Darndest Things* continues to be a ratings grabber. Cosby's star status has made him the black guy white folks don't mind having in their living room.

Oprah, meanwhile, is the black woman white people don't mind taking advice from. The highest paid performer on TV, Oprah has revolutionized the talk-show venue and remains the only black talk show host to maintain ratings over more than one season. Hers is also the only show on daytime TV with total and consistent integration. She presents a range of subjects and guests, appealing to the whole TV audience — racially, ethnically, economically mixed. She's pro-queer. She also makes films regularly, with integrated casting. She is the next generation Cosby, bridging the racial divide in much the way he has.

After hours, *Politically Incorrect*, hosted by Bill Maher, is the only night-time talk show with consistent racial/gender balance (and a lot of out queers who aren't politicians). Maher consistently addresses racial and queer issues on *PI* and has hosted a series of shows with only African American guests, to address racial issues.

With few exceptions, blacks and queers remain relegated to humor and entertainment, which means stereotyping abounds. Thomas Stickney, who portrays

bad boy RJ Gannon on *One Life to Live*, did a spot for Black History Month that has been running on ABC. He's featured in a police line-up in which all the other men are white. The spot is about racial stereotyping and packs a dramatic punch. Unfortunately, it can easily be applied to TV itself.

Ninety-three percent of African Americans on TV are on sit-coms. A handful of queer characters pepper drama series, but they are nearly all peripheral characters. There are 14 black sit-coms on network TV and one queer sit-com. Meanwhile, no black drama series programming matches the white-on-white teen programming on the WB and Fox. And where is the black women's programming?

Ultimately, blacks and queers won't break out of the TV ghetto until either white producers allow it or African Americans attain some level of power in programming — like Oprah and Cosby have done. Steve Harvey, whose sit-com *The Steve Harvey Show* has the highest rating among black viewers, noted on *PI* recently that only black producers can expand black programming, but added that such programming has to include the white audience to survive financially. (Oprah and Cosby bankroll their own projects.)

As a non-performing producer, Paris Barclay has been the first to achieve such goals, bringing queer and black characterizations to the shows he has worked on. But as with Cosby and Oprah, one African American can only do so much to alter the TV landscape, which for now remains a black and white cultural divide. ▼



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OUT & ABOUT



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Calendare by Erin Blackwell



The Popstittes at Klubstitute, circa 1990

What's in a name?

The cult of the great artist, working alone and ahead of his time, is firmly entrenched in the Western Canon. Less celebrated is the visionary guy or gal who creates an environment in which artists, outlaws, and the mad can hang out and collaborate. Diet Popstittute, who died of AIDS in August 1995, was such a guy. Klubstitute, the performative petri dish he invented and maintained until he lapsed into a coma, opened on Feb. 13, 1990. This Sunday, X-STITUTE celebrates the tenth anniversary of that momentous event.

When Diet came to San Francisco in 1977, his name was Michael Collins and he dressed in black. With best friend Alvin Orloff, he formed the rock group The Popstittes and started mixing colors and patterns. Orloff (who will DJ X-STITUTE) renamed himself Re-Mix von Popstittute, and Diet combined the names of his two favorite celebrities, Princess Di and ET. Bradley Kellogg, the third leg of the trio, was reborn as Bad Popstittute.

"Diet would put almost anybody onstage," recalls Ruby Toosday, a KLUBSTITUTE veteran. "At least once. To explore whatever creativity they had." Mixing drag, theater, spoken word, live bands, and live vocals, KLUBSTITUTE was a punk-inspired reaction to the clone-dominated gay male culture of the early '90s. Sunday night, Feb. 13, Toosday will be exploring her own aesthetic by lip-synching Janis Joplin's "A Piece of My Heart" as an anti-Valentine.

The rest of the talent line-up is more entertaining to read than most shows are to sit through. Of the 25 acts likely to grace the stage, the following have the best names: the Sick and Twisted Players, Connie Champagne, Jello Biafra, Deena Davenport, Acid Housewife, Bambi Lake, Dina Fruitfly, the Sister Sock Show with Jesus of Frankenfurter, Johnny Kat, Trauma Flintstone, Sister Kitty Catalyst O.C.P., Tony Vaguely, Patty O'Furniture, Chardonnay Adu-du, the Clipped-Out Recipes, Hedonista Trout-Snaffler, the Grand Negress Godiva, Demanda Mann, R.U. Done Yet, Roxy Toxic, and Oh! Communion. ▼

X-STITUTE starts at 9pm, Feb. 13 at the DNA Lounge, 375 11 St. (at Harrison). Admission is \$9.98; half-price before 10pm. Info: 331-1500, ext. DIET or www.klubstitute.org.

Fri 11

A Different Light

Shay Youngblood reads from *Black Girl in Paris*, about Eden, who leaves the American South in search of artistic emancipation in Paris. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

Herbst Theatre

"One Night Stand," a dragapella benefit by the Kinsey Sicks to raise eyebrows and funds for the AIDS Legal Referral Panel. The group promises "singing that's delightful, comedy that's spiteful, and a fashion sense that's frightful." \$25-\$35. 8pm. 401 Van Ness. Info: 291-5454.

Berkeley Rep

Final performance: "Civil Sex," in which playwright and director Brian Freeman meditates on the Civil Rights movement, black masculinity, and the uncharted waters of black, gay history. Five actors, including Freeman, depict a vivid array of characters, from Sen. Strom Thurmond to pacifist leader A.J. Muste to Malcolm X. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Tix: (510) 845-4700.

The Marsh

"The Dyke and the Porn Star," written and directed by Bayla Travis, performed by Pamela Beitz and Mariah Sparks. This wry look at modern lesbian passion tells the story of Chance, who is obsessed with Tara Gold, a porn star. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Thru Feb. 19. 1062 Valencia St. (near 22nd St.). 826-5750.

Magic Theatre

The world premiere of John O'Keefe's "Brontë," directed by Tony Award nominee Barbara Damachek. The play is the culmination of O'Keefe's longstanding obsession with the Brontës and their writings. The cast includes Robert Parnell, Andrew Hurteau, Alexander Storm, Yumi Sumida, and Sarah Overman. \$15-\$30. Previews Feb. 11, 12, 16, and 17. Runs Feb. 18 thru March 5, Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2:30pm. Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center, Marina Blvd. at Buchanan St. 441-8822.

Mills College Theatre, Oakland

Eve Ensler's Obie Award-winning "The Vagina Monologues," performed as part of the V-Day 2000 College Initiative, a campaign to end sexual violence against women and to proclaim Valentine's Day as the day to celebrate women and demand the end of abuse. \$8 gen'l; \$5 students and seniors. Feb. 11, 12, 14, 17, and 18 at 8pm; Feb. 13 at 2pm; Feb. 14 at 5pm. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-3308.

niors. Feb. 11, 12, 14, 17, and 18 at 8pm; Feb. 13 at 2pm; Feb. 14 at 5pm. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-3308.

Z Space Studio

In a stage-sized Victorian toy theatre, countertenor Randal Wong deploys his "Household Opera." Inanimate objects experience love, loss, and redemption in this miniature opera scored for chamber ensemble and singers. Wong combines original music with deconstructed melodies by other people. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 5pm. 1360 Mission St. 437-6775.

Jezebel's Joint

The Fencesitters Winter Ball, a special Valentine's Day event for bisexuals from around the Bay. Featuring a Stormy Leather Fashion Show, door prizes, and dance music by DJs Kelli and Bishop. \$5. 9pm-2am. 21+. 707-2876.

Yerba Buena Center

World premiere: *Entre basura y ciencia* ("Between Garbage and Science"), a multimedia collaboration featuring SF-based musician and composer Bob Ostertag, Canadian filmmaker Pierre Hébert, and Central American theater artist Baltazar López. Utilizing sound, visuals and monologue, the piece spins the story of a Salvadoran war veteran, homeless on the streets of Washington, DC, who makes poignant discoveries about himself and the world while rummaging through garbage cans in search of sustenance. \$15 (\$12 members, students, seniors). 8pm. Also on Feb. 12 & 13. The Forum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd). Info/tix: 978-ARTS.

Atelier 142 Gallery

Opening reception: "Femme," photographs and paintings by Clair Arnaud, Nancy Ericsson, Leanne Hitchcock, Lynda Mahan, Cynthia Ragin, and Raven Voss. Partial proceeds from sales benefit SF Breast Cancer Action. Champagne and chocolate. Free. 4:30-9pm. 142 Fillmore St. (at Waller). Reservations required: 861-8216.

Sat 12

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Maguire Peaks hike in Sunol Regional Park and enjoy the first wildflowers of spring, and perhaps golden eagles. It's a moderate 11-mile hike with an ele-

vation gain of about 2,400 feet. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Dolores and Market. Club info: 487-6410.

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

Fiesta del Día de San Valentin, the monthly potluck party for all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends. Meets at a private home in San Francisco. For details call Javier at 550-0388 or Andy at 522-1894.

Herbst Theatre

"Cabaret at the Herbst," an evening of song, humor and sophistication featuring performers Christine Ebersole, Claiborne Cary and Maureen McVerry, all of whom are gifted song stylists. \$25 & \$35. 7pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 392-4400 and all BASS outlets.

San Leandro Community Church

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, a group for gays and lesbians over 55, holds its monthly potluck. Noon. 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. 510-247-2406 (call if you need transportation from BART).

SFMOMA

Opening: "Fact/Fiction: Contemporary Art That Walks the Line," a multidisciplinary exhibition exploring the question of what happens in art when things are not what they appear to be. Highlights include the first public viewing of a series of works by Japanese artist Yasumasa Morimura, known for his playful depiction of himself dressed as various cultural celebrities. Organized by Janet Bishop, associate curator of painting and sculpture. \$9 gen'l; \$6 seniors; \$5 students. 11am-6pm. Thru April 16. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St. 357-4000.

SF Zoo

"Sex Tour 2000," the zoo's 11th annual Valentine's Day event, for mature audiences only. Of course, animals do not mate on cue, but just in case you're lucky enough to catch some violent, hot rhino sex, you might consider bringing a tissue. The tour, which originated here and was developed by animal keeper Jane Tollini, offers scientific insight on animal reproduction. \$40. Feb. 12, 13, 19, 20 at 9am and 3pm. Feb. 14 at 9am, noon, and 3pm.

St. Gregory Nyssen Church

Berkeley Lyric Opera Orchestra performs love serenades for Valentine's Day weekend. Music by Tchaikovsky, R. Strauss, Dvorak, and Vaughan Williams. \$15 gen'l; \$10 students and seniors. 8pm. 500 De Haro St. Info: 510-843-5781.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema inquires its 15th season with local luminary George Kuchar's latest extravaganza, *Secrets of the Shadow World*, an obsessive, sprawling digital video work exploring and expounding on the lore of the UFO mystery and its psychic fallout. Overflowing with special effects and cheesy music. \$5. 8pm reception. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Marines Memorial Theatre

Jean Stapleton does a solo turn as Eleanor Roosevelt in novelist Rhoda Lerman's "Eleanor: Her Secret Journey," adapted from her 1979 book *Eleanor*. \$30-\$50. Tue.-Sat. at 8pm; Sat. & Sun. at 2pm. Thru Feb. 27. 609 Sutter St. Tix: (877) 771-6900 or BASS.

Sun 13

A Different Light

New Voices: Disabled Poets & Artists of Color celebrate Chinese New Year and African American History Month with readings from the works of Alisa Noel, Noemi Sohn, Patty Berne, Lee Williams, Leroy Moore, Celeste White and Toby Williams. Free. 3:30pm.

Eagle Tavern

"Sweetheart Sunday," a fundraiser for Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, which provides acupuncture to HIV-positive and low-income patients. Phil Walker hosts, musician J. Brian Washman performs, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence add sparkle. Refreshments served. \$8. 3-6pm. 398 12th St. (at Folsom). Info: 861-4964.

PFLAG/St. Francis Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Les-



Cynthia Ragin's photographs are among the offerings of *Femme* at Atelier 142 Gallery. See Friday.

bians and Gays hosts Lisa Maldonado of the American Civil Liberties Union. She will explain how the organization selects the issues it works on and the effect ACLU has on the outcomes. Topics include ballot measures for the March 7 election. Free. 3-4pm (preceded by PFLAG support group, 2-3pm; all welcome). 152 Church St. (at Market). 921-8850.

Grace Cathedral

Arcangeli Baroque Strings performs "A Celebration of Corelli" under the aegis of the San Francisco Early Music Society. \$19-\$22. 5:30pm. 1100 California St. Info: 510-528-1725.

Harvey's

Absolute Empress XXX Donna Sachet reigns over a Valentine's dating game which doubles as a "No on Knight" campaign fundraiser. Hosted by The Community Book business directory, which introduces its website, www.thecommunitymail.com. Prizes for contestants donated by Bay Area sponsors; eye candy for voyeurs. Free. 7-10pm. Castro near 18th. Info: 934-8800.

Mon 14

Kimo's

Gay Comedy Showcase features Karen Ripley and her improv players, plus sundry other stand-ups. \$5. 8pm. 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). 541-5610.

Glama-Rama!

Opening reception: "Heartbeat," an exhibit of new and recent paintings by Michael Purcell. Surrealism, abstraction, expressionism and portraiture characterize his works. Free. 7-10pm. 417 South Van Ness. 565-0925.

Tue 15

Eureka Valley/ Harvey Milk Library

The James C. Hormel Center presents lesbian pulp fiction icon Ann Bannon. The author will speak about her experiences writing paperback novels in the 1950s, then answer questions from the audience. Her titles include *Odd Girl Out*, *Women in the Shadows*, and *Beebo Brinker*, which depicts the life of a young, butch lesbian who leaves a rural area to settle in Greenwich Village. Free. 7pm. 3555 16th St. (near Market). 554-9445.

Venue 9

Footloose presents "Page to the Stage," the reading of full-length plays by up-and-coming writers. Tonight: "Café Depresso," where Prozac, caffeine and black leather converge, by Tom Uegh. The emotional cohesion of six San Franciscans in group therapy is tested by a bizarre murder and a friend's suicide. \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). 289-2000.

A Different Light

Michael Downing reads from *Breakfast with Scot*, about two gay men who raise the 11-year-old son of a friend after she dies. But they're not prepared for what being parents means. Free. 7:30pm.



Mona Lisa in the Third Place by Yasumasa Morimura, part of "Fact/Fiction" at SFMOMA. See Saturday.

Wed 16

Exploratorium

"Film Landscapes by George Kuchar and Gustavo Vasquez," the work of two renowned Bay Area cinema artists. Includes Kuchar's "Chigger Country" (1999) and Vasquez's "El Charal" (1999). Vasquez, actor Hector Hernandez, and composer Guillermo Galindo will appear in person. \$9 gen/1; \$7 students and seniors. 7:30pm. 3601 Lyon St. 563-7337.

A Different Light

Sneak preview of the HBO special "If These Walls Could Talk." The stories of three lesbian couples raise your consciousness via glam performers Vanessa Redgrave, Marian Seldes, Chloë Sevigny, Ellen, and Sharon Stone. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

City Lights Booksellers

Stacy D'Erasmus reads from her new novel, *Tea*, in which the lesbian protagonist struggles with her mother's decline into depression and alcoholism, ending in suicide. D'Erasmus' journalistic writing has appeared widely in major national publications. Free. 7pm. 261 Columbus Ave.

Thu 17

Yerba Buena Center

The Harvey Milk Institute celebrates

its 5th anniversary as the world's largest queer studies center. Featuring faux drag queen Connie Champagne, children's book artist Remy Charlip, stand-up star Karen Ripley, Trannyshack hostess Hekline, and spoken wordster Alison Wright. \$50 and up. 6-9pm. The Forum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Third & Mission. 552-7200.

ODC Theater

"Ice/Car/Cage," a live-action urban poem, set in a parking lot across from the theater, featuring three guys (Keith Hennessy, Jules Beckman, and Jess Curtiss), a driverless car, a steel dog cage, a 300-lb. block of ice, and the city. Set to the music of Chopin's Nocturns and Mazurkas, with original music by Jules Beckman. The piece was originally commissioned by the SF Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival in 1997, and has since been presented by the SF Arts Institute's 1998 salon series and Yerba Buena Center's summer 1998 dance festival. \$8. 9pm. Also on Feb. 18 & 19 (rain date Sunday, Feb. 20). 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

Berkeley City Club

The Aurora Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," a döppelgänger farce set in Ancient Rome. To confuse things further, director Danny Scheie has whittled the cast down to eight and cast across genders. \$28. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 2pm & 7pm. 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. (510) 843-4822.

Sheraton Palace Hotel

The Marcus A. Conant Foundation and the UCSF AIDS Research Inst. presents a community forum on the Seventh National Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Presentations on pathogenesis, treatment update (with special focus on women), lipodystrophy, hepatitis C and HIV co-infection. Light refreshments. Free. 6pm to 8:30pm. 2 New Montgomery St. RSVP 597-UCSF.

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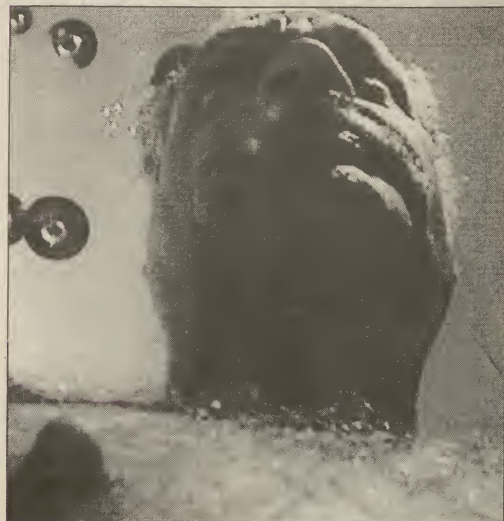
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A scene from George Kuchar's latest madness at ATA Gallery. See Saturday.

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The sash race heats up

by Mister Marcus

The race for the coveted International Mr. Leather 2000 title is heating up and the number of contenders expected to take part in the contest in Chicago next May is mounting rapidly.

One exciting development this season is that the leather communities of Los Angeles County have coalesced to form the Los Angeles Leather Coalition (LALC), a group of current leather title holders, bar owners, bears, club members and male and female leather activists. They have come together to stage the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2000 contest taking place on Saturday, March 18 at the El Rey Theatre.

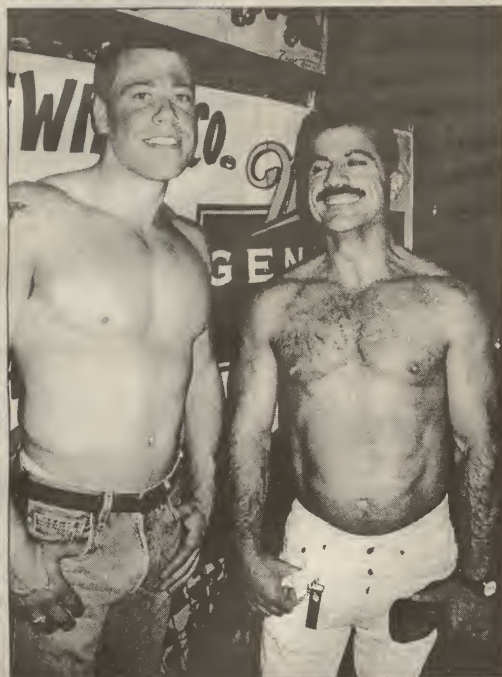
To date, the Detour and the Faultline have staged contests, each producing a winner and a runner-up. At the Detour, the winner was Jeff Wach and the runner-up Doug Bedard. At the Faultline, the winner was Doug Bedard and the runner-up Joseph Powers.

Last Saturday night, February 5, the Bullet in North Hollywood selected Ted Kuehner Mr. Bullet Leather 2000, with Paul Lord as the runner-up.

Before the series of contests is over, there should be at least a dozen entrants competing for the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2000 title.

Within the coming weeks, there will be at least a half-dozen more contests in other cities selected and readying for competition in Chicago.

Next weekend, February 11-13 in Columbus, Ohio, a new regional title launches with the Mr. Heartland Leather 2000 competition. A number of holy cows in the leather community will make the trek to Maverick Reynolds' hometown to help celebrate this development. There will be the usual meet & greet on Friday, lectures, demos, and play parties, topped off by the competi-



Paul Dawson, left, won the April 2001 spot for the 2001 bare-chest calendar. He appeared with runner-up Max Massey at the Powerhouse last Thursday, February 3.

tion and show, with a victory brunch afterward. Queen Cougar will emcee and I will join Int'l.

Ms. Leather Pam Meyer and other notables on the judging panel.

One week later in Chicago, coupled with the formal opening of the Leather Archives & Museum on Sunday — where certain long-time leather people will be honored as "Centurians" — the world-famous Cell Block Bar

will stage their Mr. Cell Block Leather 2000 contest on Saturday night, part of their Leatherfest 2000 weekend. Roger, David and Patti have teamed up to present

another landmark event in that fabled bar — the star of Halsted Street!

Also on Saturday, February 18, the Mr. Ozark Leather 2000 winner will be chosen in Springfield, Missouri.

On the weekend of February 24-27, Mike Hargiss steps down as Mr. San Diego, and more than a half-dozen men have lined up in the competition to succeed him.

Mr. and Ms. Baltimore Eagle will be chosen at that fabled bar the weekend of March 3-5.

One week later, on Friday, March 10, the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2000 contest will take place.

The very next day, the big next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, February 10

Mr. Daddy's Leather 2000 will be chosen at 2100 tonight with celebrity judges and entertainment, emceed by Lenny Broberg. Robert Hernandez will pass the sash. Win \$200 cash, title vest by David Speer at Image Leathers, and a chance to compete at Mr. San Francisco Leather on March 10.

Weekend, February 11-13

Mr. Heartland Leather competition in Columbus, Ohio with a meet & greet, interviews, physique segment, speeches, play parties, leather mart, and the gracious host, Maverick Reynolds.

Uniform Weekend in Portland, Oregon, put on by In Uniform magazine and the American Uniform Association. Various events all over town, with Andy Mangels hosting it all.

Saturday, February 12

Bay Area submissives meet 1300-1500. It's a gathering for bottoms. Call 487-9769 for invite and location. No daddies or tops allowed.

Wednesday, February 16

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. Clothes check is mandatory. You know the rules. No cologne!

Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros, at 1930 hours. Featuring Gayle Rubin, Maryann Brown, Race Bannon and Scott Wilson expounding on "The Politics of Kink" — yes, sad but true, you have to get political to be kinky. A shame.

Thursday, February 17

Mr. May 2001 will be chosen at the bare chest cal-

endar contest at the Powerhouse, at 2100 hours. All new judges. Lenny Broberg will emcee. I'm working in Columbus, Ohio, this weekend, or I'd enjoy it with you.

Friday, February 18

Constantines MC Mix N Match beer/soda bust at Daddy's, 1900-2200, with entertainment, all for \$7. See if your nuts match their bolts.

Exiles of SF present discussions by women sex workers at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930; program at 2000. \$3 members, \$5 guests. Call 587-5170 for details.

The Sling Cigar Party, \$12, beginning at 2200. Call 392-3275 for details.

In Springfield, MO, choosing Mr. Ozark Leather 2000.

In Toronto, Northbound Leather celebrates their 10th anniversary Fetish Night at 360 Adelaide Street. Info: (416) 972-1043.

Weekend, February 18-21

In Chicago: the International Bear Rendezvous at the World famous Cellblock Bar. Also Leatherfest 2000, with Mr. Cell Block Leather Contest, and the formal opening of Leather Archives & Museum.

Inter-Club Fund Motorcycle Awards at Daddy's, 1900. Tix: \$15 advance/\$20 door.

Sunday, February 20

Sundance Saloon hosts a 50/50 raffle and all the dancing and fun you can handle, 1800-2300. \$8. 174 King St.

Games people play

by Sweet Lips

How well do you know your partner? Three couples will be tested (and publicly embarrassed) in the Gay Mating Game at the Club Rendez-Vous Valentine Party this Sunday, February 13 at 4 p.m. Stop by to buy a valentine, and you could win cash and prizes. Is that your final answer?

The following Sunday at the Rendez-Vous, come for a mating game of a different sort — male strippers will be strutting their stuff on the catwalk February 20 at 9 p.m., kicking off a regular bi-weekly show. About time.

Regal games: Voting for Emperor and Empress is on Saturday, February 19. Coronation is on Saturday, February 26. Call 864-6672 for more information.

You know who Sweet Lips' candidate for Empress is, of course — the graceful Suzie Wong. Suzie will be entertaining

us at Club Rendez-Vous on Thursday, February 17 at 7 p.m., celebrating the Year of the Dragon, and serving Chinese food at the same time. Stop by the Club to get your calendar, because there is so much more going on that can possibly fit in this space. And vote for Suzie, a real hard worker.

Saturday, Feb. 12, the Rendez-Vous has a party for "Stern for Emperor." Have you seen his campaign poster — "Three faces of Stern." John Carrillo is the second candidate for Emperor, and he has a great background for the office.

The Giraffe invites you to attend the Anniversary Monarchs Party on Friday, Feb. 25, 5-8 p.m. Celebrate our Decade Monarchs: Emperor XVIII Simeon Traw and Empress XXV Marlena, 10th anniversary; Emperor VIII Chuck

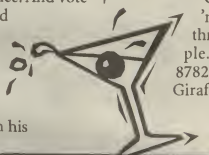
Demmon and Empress XV Tenderloin Tessie, 20th anniversary (posthumously); and Empress V, Willis, 30th anniversary. Those are some old Queens!

Order a party platter now for your table at Coronation 2000.

Chef Dennis "blinis 'n' bikinis" Tyler has three trays for 10 people. Call him at 567-8782, or leave word at the Giraffe.

Last but not least, The Portland Party "Tenth Year Anniversary" fundraiser for

Ester's Pantry in Portland, and the 13th Annual Crowning of the Emperor & Empress of Alcatraz are on Saturday, February 26 at 11 a.m. at the Rendez-Vous. Dolly Dale and Sweet Lips were crowned one year! This is a great fundraiser put together by Emperor Steve Rascher, and hosted by SF's one and only Sweet Lips. That's what they call me. ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

sparkling new Dixie Belle Complex in Kansas City, Missouri will be the site for the Mr. Dixie Belle Leather 2000 contest.

On Friday, March 17, Mr. Texas Leather 2000 will be chosen in Dallas.

A week later, Mr. Pistons Leather 2000 will be chosen in Long Beach. That's the same night as the Mr. Western New York Leather 2000 contest in Syracuse, New York.

A week later, Jimmy at the Bike Stop stages the Mr. Philadelphia Leather contest and just two weekends later (March 30-April 2), Mr. Washington State Leather will be chosen in Seattle. Hope to see a lot of you on the circuit between now and May.

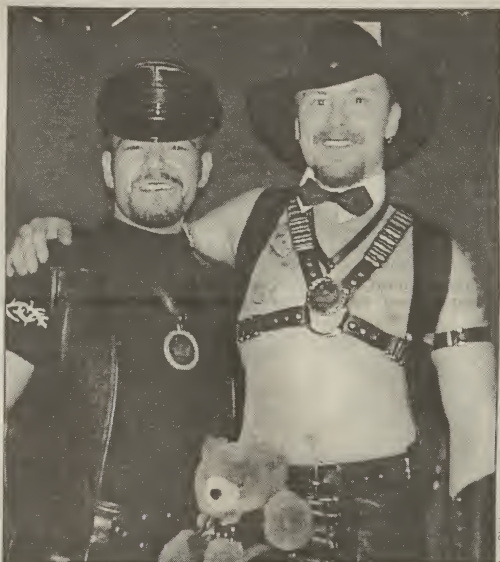
Bonanza for LLC 2000

The fourth annual gathering of the Leather Leadership Conference 2000, designed to enhance the capabilities of our leather nation, takes place in Washington, D.C. from March 31 through April 2. The planners announced last week that Viola Johnson will be the keynote speaker, to which I say: Bravo! If I wasn't already scheduled to judge at the Washington State Mr. Leather contest that same weekend, I wouldn't miss this one.

Eagle quest

Another working title holder, long after he has relinquished his sash — that would be Wayne Nesbitt, a former Mr. DC Eagle title holder who is involved in a worldwide search for all the former Mr. DC Eagle title holders. For what purpose? In 2001, a 30-year celebration of the title will take place in Bill Capello's playpen (Bill is the manager of the DC Eagle). If you know any of the aforementioned dudes, contact Wayne c/o PO Box 15329, Wash, DC 20003 or contact him by email at: wnesbitt@gwu.edu for faster communication.

Speaking of the DC Eagle: Next Saturday, February 12, the bar will host the 29th annual Scarlett's Bake Sale, from 1700 to 2300 hours. It's a benefit for Among Friends, Inc. in the capital. This one always raises thousands of dollars, so if you're in the vicinity, drop in and buy some delicious desserts and other goodies.



Mr. Bullet Leather 2000 Ted Kuehner, right, beat out runner-up Paul Lord last Saturday, Feb. 5 in North Hollywood. Both will compete for the Mr. LA Leather 2000 title on March 18.

News in my back yard

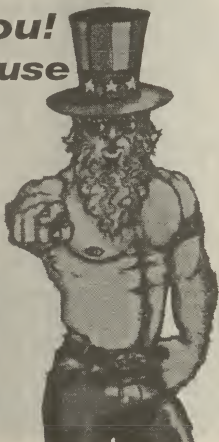
The Defenders MC celebrated an anniversary on Saturday, January 29, and the Cal Eagles MC celebrated theirs last Saturday, February 5. Carlos Mosca was re-elected president of the Defenders. At my deadline, no info was forthcoming from the Cal Eagles.

Last night, Wednesday, February 9, the Edge held their Mr. Edge Leather 2000 contest — too late for my deadline, but tonight, Mr. Daddy's Leather 2000 will be chosen at 2100. Hope to see you all there. Meanwhile, the Powerhouse has yet to give me a definite date for their Mr. Powerhouse contest, but stay tuned. ▼

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New Age Big Top

'Dralion' falls a bit flat

by Richard Dodds

Dralion is my first Cirque du Soleil experience, but I still don't feel I've had the Cirque du Soleil experience. The latest extravaganza from the Montreal-based New Age circus factory only occasionally achieves the transcendent states that earlier productions so clearly must have had. After all the build-up, *Dralion* must be counted as a mild disappointment.

But if this is an atypical Cirque du Soleil reaction, *Dralion* is avowedly an atypical production. With its own resources tapped by

its expanding repertory, Cirque du Soleil had to look outside its own company for *Dralion*.

Guy Caron, the circus' first artistic director, was lured back after 12 years to stage the new show. His ties to the early days of Cirque du Soleil are certainly authentic, but either by choice or necessity, *Dralion* has been built around a pre-existing troupe of acrobats, rather than performers assembled to fit a concept. The results here can be a little flat.

The 35 Chinese performers hired en masse are a competent lot, but too often lacking the imagination and showmanship that can transport an audience. With a backdrop of ethereal music booming, and exotically costumed performers literally climbing the walls, the startlingly young acrobats jump through hoops, balance on one hand, and do the kind of stunts that were once a staple of *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Their smiles seem too ef-

fortful, and their safety cables too helpful.

But in two of the few segments when the Chinese are catching their breaths backstage, performers are able to match the enchantment that is being manufactured around them. You've probably seen jugglers as good as Viktor Kee before, but he knows how to sell his act with a rhythmic posing that pulls the audience to him. Even more magically lyrical is the aerial pas de deux that Juliana Neves and Ivo Guoerguiev perform in a swirl of fabric.

A quartet of clowns makes frequent appearances to mixed results. Soizick Hebert, who looks like Celine Dion, isn't very funny, but the nervous and diminutive Joe DePaul is. Johnny Filion's goofy bits with a megaphone lose ground through repetition. Eric Goulem's role should remain a mystery so as not to undermine the show's biggest laughs.

Officially, *Dralion* employs a



The 'Ballet on Lights' in Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion*

SF Ballet

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niparoli) picks up his bruised, repentant child, was botched. Muriel Maffre's Siren was also physically perfect and emotionally absent, as though she heeded too well those warnings about "don't emote."

The second night, the piece was not so tidily danced, but then even Mr. B admitted that *Prodigal* wasn't about technique. Gonzalo Garcia is just as beautiful as Boada, though not yet so accomplished a dancer. He let heart and soul explode from within, so that when he crawled into Ashley Wheeler's stalwart arms, that was an emotional epiphany. Likewise, Yuan Yuan Tan may not be as icily perfect as Maffre, but she is far more seductive, catching the Siren's silky wit as she obscenely caressed her thighs with her beloved red velvet cape. When Tan and Garcia ended on the floor entwined in a Kama Sutra position, my companion whispered, "This is hot!"

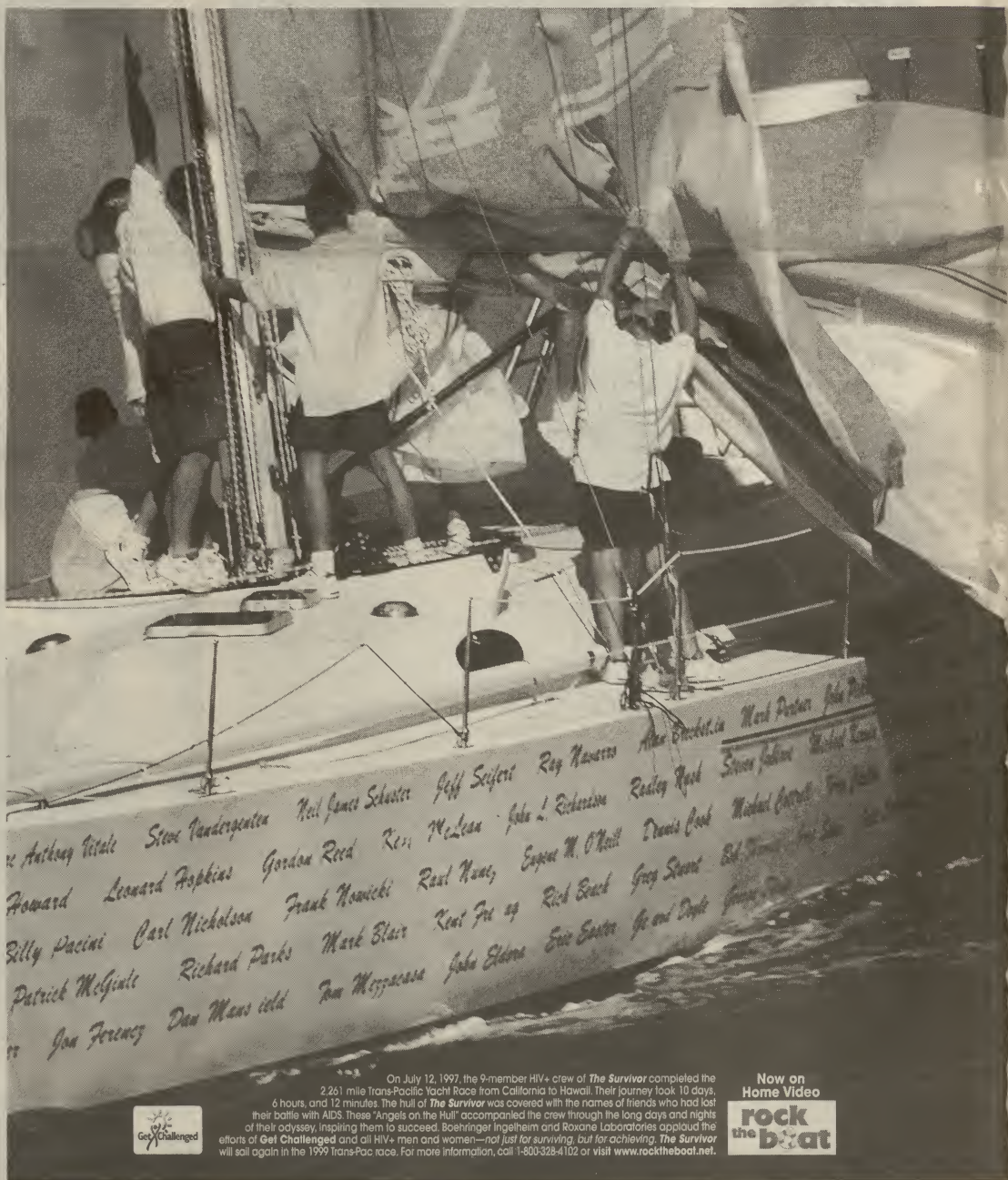
I would have liked to see a conflation of the two *Serenade* casts on the night the orchestra played Tchaikovsky well. Berman's partner, Pierre-François Vilanova, seemed flummoxed by the waltz, but Cyril Pierre supported Lacarra admirably. Stephen Legate outshone Vadim Solomakhia as the "blind" cavalier by sheer personality (and that fabulous hair), though Solomakhia is a steady, reliable partner. (Which reminds me that at the Gala, Roman Rykine showed such an improvement in manners and strength as a partner that I looked through my opera glasses twice to make sure it was him.)

As the will-o'-the-wisp who flits through the first movement, both Tina LeBlanc and the new Cuban girl, Lorena Feijoo, were breathtaking. Feijoo's wide shoulders and long torso were not flattered by the hideous pink swimsuit she wore in *Symphony*, but the speedy, mathematical choreography held no terrors for her. Lacarra and Possokhov (who was audibly counting during his first movement entrées — this is fiendishly difficult music) mastered the chilly cantilevers and Bauhaus architecture of the non-love duet. Wit was not missing here, either, though *Symphony* is a work we are going to have to see many times before it yields all its secrets. ▼

San Francisco Ballet's Program I continues in repertory through February 12 at the War Memorial Opera House. For tickets, \$8-100, call 865-2000.

uniting theme of the elements: Earth, water, fire, and air. It seems more an obligatory reference to the Cirque du Soleil style than to anything actually realized in the high-tech tent. Maybe next time I'll have the Cirque du Soleil experience of lore. ▼

Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion* will run through March 26 in the parking lot of Pac Bell Park. Tickets are \$39-\$60, with discounts for students, seniors, and children. Call (800) 678-5440 or go online at cirqueduseil.com



On July 12, 1997, the 9-member HIV+ crew of *The Survivor* completed the 2,261 mile Trans-Pacific Yacht Race from California to Hawaii. Their journey took 10 days, 6 hours, and 12 minutes. The hull of *The Survivor* was covered with the names of friends who had lost their battle with AIDS. These "Angels on the Hull" accompanied the crew through the long days and nights of their odyssey, inspiring them to succeed. Boehringer Ingelheim and Roxane Laboratories applauded the efforts of *Get Challenged* and all HIV+ men and women—not just for surviving, but for achieving *The Survivor* will sail again in the 1999 Trans-Pac race. For more information, call 1-800-328-4102 or visit www.rocktheboat.net.



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MUSIC

TELEVISION

'Folk' tales from queer Britain



In its new installment, the gay and lesbian television newsmagazine *In the Life* features a look at the latest developments concerning *Queer As Folk*. Lucky festivalgoers at last year's Lesbian & Gay Film Fest who caught the British TV series about the lives of three gay men will be interested in the upcoming sequel, set to air in Britain this month. *In the Life* interviewed the three lead actors, Charlie Hunnam, who plays Nathan (photo left); Aidan Gillen, who plays Stuart (photo right, on jeep); and Craig Kelly, who plays Vince (standing).

Also in this episode, an interview with Graciela Sanchez of San Antonio's Esperanza Peace and Justice Center; and the work of choreographer and dancer David Rousseve.

In the Life airs Tuesday, February 15 at 11 p.m. on KQED, Channel 9. ▼

Transcendent tunes on disc

Music for romance

by Gregg Shapiro

During February, the month of love (Valentine's Day, and all that), take some time out to meditate on the music that you consider to be romantic. *A Gift Of Love* (Rasa), for example, which can best be described as "Deepak Chopra and friends present music inspired by the love poems of Rumi," is certain to inspire romantic feelings in some. Among Chopra's friends (on this CD, at least), you will find Madonna, Demi Moore, Martin Sheen, Blythe Danner, Jared Harris, Goldie Hawn, and Debra Winger.



A Gift Of Love is not the first CD to feature the work of Rumi, in an attempt to present him to an American audience. Angel Records released a CD called *Vision II* a few years ago. As part of their Ravi Shankar Collection, Angel records has also recently reissued *West Meets East: The Historic Shankar/Menuhin Sessions*

(Angel). Originally released as a three-album series, the sessions in *West Meets East* CD came out one at a time in 1967, 1968 and 1976, and paired the world-famous sitar player Shankar with the world-famous violin player Yehudi Menuhin. An historic collaboration such as this one is just now finding its way to compact disc, and it's an enjoyable and celebratory musical experience.

Some of the raga music that you can hear on the *West Meets East* CD can also be heard on *Global Fusion* (Erato) by L. Subramaniam. Ironically, Dr. Subramaniam dedicates his album to his "dear friend Yehudi Menuhin." Subramaniam truly does achieve the "global fusion" mentioned in the CD's title by incorporating a variety of musical instruments (and musicians) from the world music scene. This wonderful CD is an exotic listening and learning experience that should appeal to all listeners with a taste for the unique.

The Ravi Shankar/Yehudi Menuhin reissue is not the only reissue of importance in the Eastern music world. Sheila Chandra's *Quiet* (Indipop/Narada World) is the first of five albums by Chandra now being reissued on compact disc. Hypnotic, soothing, and a little bit erotic, the ten-part *Quiet* would be appropriate listening for a romantic dinner by candlelight, a romantic candle-lit soak in the bathtub for two, or for setting the romantic mood just before slipping under the covers. ▼

The Danish Girl

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cedure at the time). But Ebershoff has also chosen to consolidate several medical professionals involved in the factual story as well as Lili's actual surgeries — many of which were of an experimental nature during this period.

"There were a lot of doctors involved," he says. "And I very consciously decided to limit the amount of the book that was about the actual transformation."

"Her time was not accepting," Elliott notes. "Lili was told by several physicians that she was crazy and to straighten up, to be a man. But like thousands of other transsexuals, she kept on with her life."

According to Elliott, Dr. Warnekros, who headed the Dresden Women's Clinic, was visiting Paris when a women friend of Elbe's introduced them to one another. After consulting on the case, Warnekros invited Elbe to come to Germany, first to Berlin to be examined at the Institute for Sexology, where she met with Hirschfeld, at Warnekros's request, for a second opinion. In Berlin she had her first operation, the removal of her male genitals. Then, when sufficiently recovered, she went to Dresden, where Dr. Warnekros performed further surgery, which included transplanting healthy ovaries into her abdomen. Several other surgical procedures were involved, including an emergency surgery due to abdominal pain, which is believed to have been the removal of the rejected ovaries.

"Dr. Warnekros was a gynecologist, not a sexologist," Elliott says. "So he deferred to his colleague, Hirschfeld, for an opinion on the matter of Lili's suitability for what we now call Sex Reassignment Surgery."

Elliott also notes that "Lili did not have certain medical possibilities that we have today. And, ironically, had others we do not have now. Lili did not have access to exogenous estrogens. Feminizing hormones were not available until 1938. Because of that, the only options were surgical."

The original story also ended much more tragically than Ebershoff's poignant and lyrical final moments in *The Danish Girl*. Details about Elbe's actual death vary; some reports say she may have faked her death in 1931 and that she wrote her own obituary, while others believe she may have died a few months after her fifth operation, an operation that she hoped would allow her to have intercourse with a man to whom she was engaged to be married. Gerda died in 1940, after remarrying again in 1933.

Elliott also notes that today Elbe's story has become a part of an "unbroken chain" of events that link Hirschfeld, Warnekros, and Elbe's first steps toward sexual reassignment surgery to Jorgensen and Benjamin's more remembered ones.

"Christine Jorgensen and Harry Benjamin were also close friends," Elliott says. "The connection between Hirschfeld and Benjamin means that we have a continuous history of transsexuals working with and sharing friendships with brave physicians." ▼

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HIV+ crew member of *The Survivor*,
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PERFORMANCE

Getting exposure in the best way

Jon Sims Center's AIRspace Program

by Aimée Ts'ao

I trudged up the long flight of steps at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, located on Mission Street just off South Van Ness. In a city where an out-of-control real estate market has severely eroded affordable space for dance studios and performance spaces, I'm thankful that, for the moment, this one is still operating. At the top, I was met by a very tall man who introduced himself as Charles Wilmoth, the center's director. Seated in his office for the following interview, I was impressed by his gentleness and warmth, as he spoke, with a hint of a Southern accent, about the JSC's artist-in-residence program, AIRspace.

"The program started five years ago to assist emerging artists, by providing free rehearsal space and support for three works-in-progress, and a showing where they get audience feedback. Since I started here in September, I've expanded the program from three to four months, and doubled the rehearsal time from four to eight hours a week. The audience feedback gives the artist an immediate idea of how work is perceived, and then they can use that information to shape the piece. It also gives audiences a look backstage, to see the discipline involved in creating art," said Wilmoth.

"Part of my job is to make the public aware of all the programs we offer, not just the highly visible ones like the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band, City Swing and CHEER, which, because they appear mostly in public places, aren't usually associated with us. The health of the arts community is dependent on the kind of programs we offer, now that the economics of San Francisco have changed and the NEA has been gutted.

"We also sponsor the *Wuornos* Opera project, which will premiere at Yerba Buena Center of the Arts later this year; Artists Alliance Against AIDS; and *Pieces of the Quilt*, an emerging playwright series," he said. "AIRspace, largely performance art/dance-oriented, is starting to attract new audiences, and a younger art audience, which is more queer-identified than gay or lesbian-identified.

"We try to be very democratic and support people at whatever their current artistic level. I would like to raise money to hire directors, to provide an outside perspective and dramaturgical assistance. Several previous residents, on the strength of their first shows with AIRspace, got other funding after being in the program. One group was invited to appear in the National Queer Arts Festival, and then received a grant from the Horizons Foundation.

"I heard a rumor that another major foundation is beginning to develop an initiative for supporting queer arts. And that is appropriate. Just as corporations and police departments are expected to have sensitivity training, that also needs to apply to foundations, because foundations are set up by people with vast amounts of money and are typically conservative and have conservative values. So it is a struggle about educating people, even people who are supposedly enlightened about supporting culture and so-

cial services. Old prejudices are still operating in the vestigial parts of their brains, there still is that kind of bigotry. As a political movement and a culture, we have made certain starts, but you can't forget that there are still people who want to kill us," said Wilmoth.

"My dream for AIRspace is that the participants leave here with a really together show that gets presented in all kinds of places. I think queer folks have always been central to culture and we should continue to think of ourselves in that way," he said. "My hope is to mainstream these folks. I think it's wonderful for them to have a safe place to come, and there is the cushion of being among like-minded folks. My goal is to help make all queer folks feel like they are citizens of the world, and entitled to the privileges and freedom of movement that others already have.

"Just as patriarchal religions have failed us, I think there is a strand in the multicultural debate that has meant even more fragmentation and ghettoization. The real basis of multicultural inclusion is that we all are in it together. We all should be responsible to each other, and everybody should be invited to the table."

The Residents

I also interviewed three of the four current artists-in-residence at the Sims Center, to get their side of the story. Tomi Paasonen, a young choreographer originally from Finland, offered this perspective on his experience:

"It's a great opportunity to really experiment and try ideas out in front of an audience. It's definitely a scary thing to try things out and then have an audience look at something that it still really raw, not refined or ready. If I were in my ideal world, I'd be a fly on the wall. That's when you get the real feedback, you could listen to people talk amongst themselves without knowing who you are. You have to be honest in terms of what you feel and what you want to express, but you have to go the extra mile in what you want the audience to feel, or leave it open enough for them to... it's all in the eye of the beholder.

"When I've shown my work here, the feedback is really conflicting, and that can be confusing. Once, in an audience of only four people, two gay men and two lesbians, the gay men picked up on the themes of the piece in a completely different way than the two women. The beauty of it is to have all these different versions of your own work, that's when it becomes the extension and communication of your ideas. There are just as many pieces going on as there are audience members."

Shari McKoy, an African American artist, says AIRspace "allowed me to sit and focus on creating a piece by providing a space. It's a good way to get exposure, and my hope is that I am receiving exposure wider than the lesbian community, which I have performed in now for over three years. I believe that AIRspace is going to provide me with a step in another direction. They have really taken good care of me. And they are excited about what I'm doing, which makes me even more excited. I do like the feeling of partnership and camaraderie that AIRspace is giving me.

Charles's vision is that we should not be four separate people, but a unit. It's been a major gift, and if you had to put value on it, it would be a diamond."

"I was renting rehearsal space at the Sims Center when I saw the application," said Minal Hajratwal, a writer and performance poet. "I had already performed my piece at the Asian Art Museum last November and was working on the second version, which I will be premiering in its entirety at Luna Sea on February 18 and 19, while continuing to do the works-in-progress showings for AIRspace. The residency has been great for me because it's based on the merit of your work, and not on having a long track record of producing pieces. We're all doing exciting work that you wouldn't get to see at a stodgy mainstream theater. It's inspiring for the audience to be so close to the work. They can see us as performers, the flow of the work, and its potential. They see that it is something that they could do themselves, but that it's a matter of having a vision and the time and resources. It's not a mystery, something that is unattainable, which is the idea you get when you see Hollywood movies and ACT productions."

The showings of works-in-progress continues at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission Street, Fridays at 8:30 p.m. through March 24. ▼



Dancers Torkel Braathem, Nol Simonse, and Nicole Bonadonna in AIRspace resident artist Tomi Paasonen's *Moonfools*

Shari McKoy's *Burn*, March 3;
Minal Hajratwal's *Avatars: Gods for a New Millennium*, Feb. 11 & March 10; Ryan Galbreath's

Who's Afraid of Who?, Feb. 18 & March 17; Tomi Paasonen's *Moonfools* and *Les Sylphides*, Feb. 25 and March 24.

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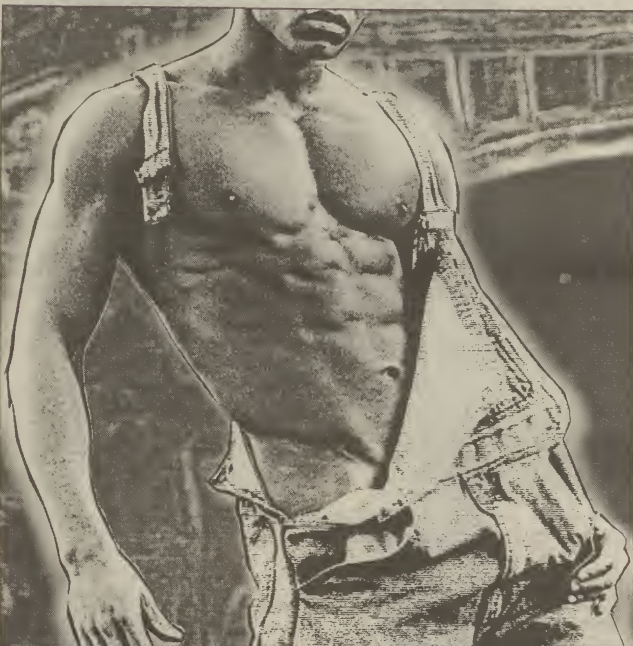


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PARTING GLANCES

Jason-New Years Eve Late Nite

Wanted to tell you how handsome I looked when we chatted at the muni stop in the Castro on Eve of 2000. Let's do lunch or dinner- Contact David ☎ 71403

Downtown Thur 12/30

1:30p. You: Asian w/brn leather jacket. Me: Caucasian/blk jacket. Walking down Market/Embarcadero. Wanted to say hello to you, but shy. I blew it. You're gorgeous. Please call. ☎ 71404

Solstice Party 12-25

Caught your eye twice. Once when you were in the sling, then again while on your back in the jail cell. So big man, please us both and call me. ☎ 71405

God Bless America @ Detour For wearing those baggy jeans with a jockstrap underneath. ☎ 71476

New Years Eve Fireworks

You: Cute GWM. Me: GWM, leaving after fireworks at the Ferry Bldg. We smiled at each other twice, then waived. Like to meet? ☎ 71406

Tuesday, Dec 14 Steamworks 6pm

Francisco, we were both on our way home, you offered a ride to me outside. I should have got in. Tim. ☎ 71451

Steamworks-Friday Jan 14

You: sexy tall bawny bald WM w/blonde goatee. Me: lean, toned light BM. We took long showers next to each other. I was leaving, but want to meet you! ☎ 71452

Howard BB Sat. 01-01

You 24 hour-Mr world. Wish I got your number. Please call. Rick. ☎ 71402

Cala Mkt 18th St. 1/20 4:45PM

You: Goodlooking brn hair, tan stacks, clean shave, w/cart, hunkie, white car, Buick? Only bought 1 veggie, me: goodlooking Noe Valley, both 40ish? ☎ 71475

TimfromrichmondteamworksJan21

I had a blast and can't believe I got confused where to meet you for that ride to bart. Hope you catch this we can finish what we started. Ron. ☎ 71477

KK

You gave me a tour of Shinjuku, Shibuya, & Asakusa. We spent that night together. Ever since then my heart has been yours. PB ☎ 71500

1/22 2:30pm On 19th Street

Me: black cowboy hat w/female friend- You: tan shirt & brown pants- We both looked several times, still interested? I am! ☎ 71502

Carhart Pants Both You And I.

18th Street. Me pizza in hand. We exchanged quick glance then you walked in to burrito place 2/1 15h. ☎ 71505

Arco Gas Station Sunday Jan 30

At San Leandro Arco station, Davis St. We were both filling up- you with a station wagon. Interested? Please call. ☎ 71503

Safeway On Market Jan. 24th
On a Monday around 10am, you: tall, thin, brown hair, soul patch, wearing yellow raincoat and rainboots. Our eyes met, sorry I didn't say hi- would like to meet you. ☎ 71504

Union Square Tue Jan 25 3:00pm

You: cute, thin, blond with glasses, and great smile, carrying your bag. Me: dark hair, glasses, white shirt, tie, black jacket, smiling back. Followed you to Geary St. Call me! ☎ 71501

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Masochist Still Seeks

Chinese sadist for bodyplay (clothespins, spanking, etal), restrictive rope bondage and humiliation. I am muscular in-shape blonde 5'10", 165# and 32. Must be broad-minded, friendly, sincere and seeking long-term friendship. ☎ 71407

Lean For Lean

GWM, 41, 6', 165lbs, HIV+, Italian/German, short brown hair, goatee, bottom seeks lean Caucasian up to 50. Into metaphysics, butt play, country/western, golden showers, massage. ☎ 71408

Seeking Native Russian-Speaker

Bi WAM American, 51, 178cm, 80k, fluent in Russian, affectionate, versatile, discrete, well-endowed, looking for native Russian-speaker (younger A+) for friendship, mutual pleasure, massage. ☎ 71409

HIV+ ISO Fit GWM For Dating

We're stable, motivated, productive, masculine, socially aware, professional, good looking, gym toned. We like home, leather, versatility, synergy, tough, travel, humor. You're 35-45, ns, lean, secure, honest, seeking dad. ☎ 71410

GWM Nice Guy

31, 6.0 170lbs HIV- Honest, sincere, healthy, masculine, enjoy movies, dancing, theater, cuddling and real relationships. You same, call. No drugs. ☎ 71411

Cinderella/Seeks/Prince/Charming

Sonoma fellow available for castle upkeep & romance. Me: 41, br/bluete, 180 HIV+ fun, fit you could be: dark, dom, hairy, husky, 40-50, sincere affectionate & mature. ☎ 71412

Brave Sexy Boy 49 Sks Lean Fit

Rough buddy/dad to tie me down, beat me, fuck me, keep my nipples sore, piss-feed me, make me stay shaved & horny. 5'8 1/2", 152, work out, uncult, buzzed/bm-gray, goatee, bl/glasses, cock-hungry. NS/nd exc. pot, pls. ☎ 71413

GWM Seeks Latino

Youthful 55yr old GWM ISO gay Latino man 18-45 who enjoys sensual deep throat action. Masc, trim, clean uncult A+. ND. LTR possible. Movies and dinner out. ☎ 71414

Slim Or Muscle

I'm a lingerie designer for men only. From g-strings to body suits. You attractive males 18-25 sexual, safe play. No fats, friends good teeth, HIV-, clean hygiene. ☎ 71415

S.F. Officers

Seeking honest serious friends. You 18-35, HIV-, clean hygiene, swollen nipples, good teeth, round butt. GWM, 48, 5'10", ch. 49" No fats nor drugs. ☎ 71416

S.F. Firemen

Hard working gay firemen for serious friends. You HIV-, clean hygiene, good teeth, round butt, submissive, big swollen nipples, 18-25 only. No fats. ☎ 71417

EB WM Seeks HM For?

Friendship/more? 35yo attr. WM seeks HM 30-40 for dinner, movies, dancing. Give a call, you have nothing to lose. ☎ 71418

HIV BLK #170, 5'10"

In reasonably good physical condition, seeking 1on1 interaction. You small to med build, tall or short thin to lean body type. Bottom A+, no bears or bears types! ☎ 71419

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino 34y/o black hair, brown eyes, goatee professional looking for GWM between 26-40y/o for friendship, or more. I like: hiking, dinner, traveling. Just call me. ☎ 71486

GAM Seeks GWM 65 And Over

For long term relationship. Please call Alan. I am 48, average build. ☎ 71420

Mulatto Guy:

Good looking, intelligent, creative. Looking for financially secure and stable male for friendship, a relationship or more. ☎ 71421

Sexy Student Seeks Patron

Hot 25y/o, 5'11", 150lbs, slim muscular gym toned body, 8 thick inches, seeks generous relationship w/ financially secure man or couple serious only please. ☎ 71453

Long LeanGWM Boyface Big XXXX

Adventurous, affectionate 6'1", 175#, br/gr, clean shaven, architect, nonsmoker, early riser, own apartment, 33, swim, hike, cook, museums, nude massage, romantic b & b's or "Thelma and Louise" road trips. ☎ 71454

Handsome Italian

40, 6'2", 185lbs, well-endowed into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV- Latin man who is honest, romantic and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 71455

Seeking Romance

GWM 55, 6'5" 260 HIV- top looking for SWM, 35+ HIV- bottom for romance and play. Aroma smoke ok. Call. ☎ 71456

You Can Call Me Sir

Hairy, handsome, in shape top leather man, 50, looking for a submissive, good looking bottom boy who wants to have fun, suck tool, and get his ass fucked. ☎ 71457

ISO My Red Hot Valentine

You: GWM or GWM, HIV-, 35-45, enjoys movies, dining out, kissing & cuddling. Me: A sweet & spicy GWM, HIV-, 41, 5'9", 175lbs. reddish brn/bluete Pls. call. ☎ 71458

New Millennium Opportunity:

GBM, 44 n/s HIV-, bright, conversational, top, ISO HIV-, masculine bottom 30s-40s, Arts, Collectible interests A+. ☎ 71478

Hot Frenchman!

French guy desired for love and adventure by hung romantic blue eyed European in late 30's. Let's meet in San Francisco or Europe. ☎ 71479

Rugged Guy Seeks Rugged Guy

Handsome half Latino gardener, 48, 5'8", neg, seeks attr GWM for dating including movies, food, travel, reading + just fun. Let's keep open minds as we enjoy getting acquainted. ☎ 71480

...If You Need Love+Hard Sex.

I'm 36y/o, 5'7", 140lbs. lean muscle, brn, long hair. Masculine, handsome, easy-going. Nice dick "8". Enjoy everything. Looking 4 GM, under 40's. w/nice round butt. No fats or drugs. ☎ 71481

Romantic Hairy Italian

Handsome, WM, 6', 170lbs, br/br, 42, healthy, HIV-neg; good sense of humor; seeks same; a potential boyfriend willing to explore and get to know each other, smoke/light drink ok. ☎ 71482

YummyShyGuy

GWM 6'2", 195, 44(looks 30's), and totally edible. The quiet ones are sometimes the best buddies. Also the hottest. Versatile, love oral, n/s, HIV-. Tell me what you want. ☎ 71483

Hola! GLM
40yr. old GWM, 5'10", 180lb. blond, hairy-chested, HIV-neg, seeking in-shape GLM, up to 40, HIV-neg, for dating, romance, LTR- smooth, goatee A+. ☎ 71484

You're 4 Me!

GWM, 41y/o, 215#, seeks 35-45y/o. hairy top. I'm financially secure, outgoing, like movies & music, entertaining & "the good life". HIV- only please. ☎ 71485

Single Attractive 28

I'm Latino, 5'6", 165lbs, stocky, muscular, dark hair, smooth, seeking Latinos, Asians, or Whites under 40 for friendship or build monogamous LTR. ☎ 71487

Seeking Hispanic/ Blond Blue 18-21yrs.

Prefer significant other/ friends HIV-. No overweights/ fems. I'm Hispanic, blk. hr. brn. eyes. olive complexion, 24yrs. 157lbs. HIV- considered good looking comments made. ☎ 71506

Seeking Matured Man

W/M wanting a casual relationship with a clean, trim matured man, late 50s to 60s who enjoys receiving oral service. Your place, no reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71507

Don't Know How It's Done

But want to try. I need mixture of orders. + humiliation coupled with on-going love relationship. I'm 57, GWM on bottom 5'11". ☎ 71508

GWM 44 5'9" 180 Med Build

Smooth body brn/bn wants to meet med or slightly chubby men for safe sensual play. Enjoy footplay A+ rel poss. ☎ 71509

Nellies!

ISO nellie man, 45-52, approx. 5'8", 150lbs, any color. GWM, neg, masculine, 5'8" 175lbs, fit craftsman. If you're masculine or straight-acting, Don't call. ☎ 71510

GAM Seeks Love Life

GAM, 33, 5'11", 135#, seeks in-shape GWM, 33-45. HIV- to fulfill the life destination. Honesty is the best. ☎ 71511

Bottom Seeks Phone Sex

Submissive GWM 5'7" 130lbs begs to worship verbal dominant top, hgt-wet proportional. ☎ 71512

Friendship & ?

Attractive 39 GWM, 175lb, 5'11", brown, ice blue, attempting to re-join dating scene, seeking sense of humor, serious, romantic, love cabins, quiet nights, theater, sound interesting? ☎ 71513

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Boy 49 Loves To Mouth-Worship

Top buddy's balls, dick, & hole. Strong quiet tongue job or sweaty slimy throat fuck for fit, sexy, insipid, in-charge man any age/race. 5'8 1/2", 152 uncult, buzzed/brown-gr, goatee, bl/glasses, work out. Let's connect. NS/nd pls. ☎ 71422

Cleancut GWM Top ISO Playmate

Handsome, furry, amiable fellow (35, 6', 175, nicely-equipped, HIV+) seeks trim, articulate, insatiable but presentable nasty boy for misadventures: carnal, social, cinematic, literary, quite possibly romantic, but mostly carnal. ☎ 71423

Hung Black Oakland Guy, 46,

Unwinds with a beer and a deep throat around his mocha manhood. No voicemail, beeper or work phone's. Moustache (but no other facial hair) a big plus. ☎ 71424

GWM Bear Seeks Black Men

36, 250#, 5'9" blond, bearded, seeking Black men to orally service. Age/looks not important. Large/chubby men especially desired. Peninsula. ☎ 71426

Seeking Latin Top

Masculine, well built, bottom looking for sex starved Latin top, 35-45 for on-going sessions in S.F. Oral, anal, nasty, let's do it... ☎ 71427

Sex Crave Asian ISO Play Boys

Happy partnered chub look for hot sex. Week days, afternoon. Oakland area. Any race, 35-45, HIV- your place, no string. Relax, discreet, poss long term, sex deal. ☎ 71428

Asian And Filipino Bottoms Yea

Let me tongue & cock fuck your hot Asian ass. 37yr GWM, Italian, neg. Great looks & body. I want to be your top! Call Now! ☎ 71429

Lean Muscular GEWM Submissive

Into rope bondage and TT. I'm 31, br hair, bl eyes. Be around my age or younger, and clean cut. Tie me up! ☎ 71430

J/O Buddy

GWM, 48, 6'3", 180, seeks trim mutual j/o partner. Non-hairy plus. ☎ 71431

Well Endowed Black Men

Who need a sub White guy for regular servicing. Me: 5'8" 155 hairy stache. Your pleasure will be my pleasure. ☎ 71432

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Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
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Couples ☐
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

FF Top
GMM need FF bottom into toys, w/s, rim, videos playmates. ☎ 71433

Masculine, Muscular, & Massage
GWM, attractive, 6', 170lbs, br/br, healthy, 41, HIV-; seeks guy for quiet interludes at my place in SF. You're slim, clean, HIV-, smooth, and maybe hung? Pls call. ☎ 71434

Sonoma County Top
42, 5'9"/170 hairy, hung, positive seeking Mexican/Latino bottom 30-50, slim preferred. Must like Ass-play! ☎ 71435

Seeking Men Of Color
Handsome BM, 31, wants to suck your dick. Other scenarios possible but unnecessary. If your lucky, I'll come back. HIV- men of color only. ☎ 71436

Robert Of Palo Alto Head Giver
To guys under 45 with average to large cock who recip.. Up in Redwood City to Sunnyvale. I'm 41, 190 husky bottom. ☎ 71437

Looking For Fun
Goodlooking, GWM, HIV+ (very healthy), 42y/o, 187lbs, and 6ft, seeks other goodlooking men for fun times. All nationalities welcome. Please no men over 40. ☎ 71438

Downtown Deep Throat
GWM 50 great head any age, race. 7" or better lay back and get done. ☎ 71515

Want To Meet Top Fist Pals
Attractive bottom guy ISO nasty minded top fister. My hole needs small to medium hands. I like dirty talk, all ages, types. Just really enjoy playing with a man's hole. ☎ 71439

South Bay J/O Addict Buddies
GWM, 32, thin, chronic masturbator, jacks naked for hours, days. Wants like-minded buddies for repeated, obsessive, cum-squirting marathon sessions. Under 35, trim. South Bay A+. ☎ 71440

Gay Artists Wanted!
I am looking for gay artists to discuss their art and also to get together for fun or good times. Contact me. ☎ 71441

Hung Guys Wanted!
I am looking for guys who are hung "9" or more for fun and good times. Call me and we'll get together. ☎ 71442

Seeking A Mature Man Of Color
Me: Irish/Italian, 37, HIV-, 5'7", 140, brown, blue, cute, boyish, clean shaven, witty, charming and intelligent. Sexually versatile, very oral, bubble butt bottom, nice uncut dick. ☎ 71425

Just Shut Up And Ride
WM 35, 5'10", 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk wants good looking masculine men to pump. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 71459

Face Fucker Wanted For Oral Action
GWM, 50, HIV+, 5'10", 170lbs, s/p buzz cut, uncut ISO easy going men 40-60 for hot oral times, size not imp. Enthusiasm is. Bears and beards A+. ☎ 71461

Mature Hairy Man Sought
By masc. GWM 6'1" 210 smooth, oral expert with nipple fetish. HIV-. Smart, funny easy going smoker-needing Hot Sex encounters. ☎ 71463

A Common Interest Wanted
Average GWM professional, HIV- 50's s/p hair, non-gym, Greek active, French active/passive, cut hard, looking for GWM professional and avid fan of handjob series. ☎ 71466

Spank Me
Cute little frat boy 22, gym-body, needs over the knee discipline from big brother. 18-35. ☎ 71520

Ass Licker
If yer a young, muscular, hot, masculine dude, this 50y/o handsome, hairy, muscular guy would love to eat your butt out while I jack off. ☎ 71467

Versatile In Sonoma County
Nice-looking, fun, generous, healthy, middle-aged GWM loves giving and receiving head and rimming. Prefer slender, 18-35, but open to anything. ☎ 71468

Uncut Hung-9 Hairy Masc Musc
GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, versatile dad, balding, seek fit man with great butt, nipple work, nice legs, nice cock, verbal talk, light s&m, rough, tender, rugged, kiss & cuddle. HIV-, poz ok. I shall visit S.F. in March from east coast. ☎ 71469

Auditions Are Underway
To locate the best cocksucker. Winner gets a sweet shot from Oakland's blackest and juiciest. No voicemail, pager or work phone #'s. Moustache a big plus. No beginners. ☎ 71470

Boys Just Wanna Have Fun!
Single, attractive, healthy in-sape youthful 40's GWM, 5'9", 160, brown/brown, moustache, versatile SF resident seeks friendship or more from honest, horny, independent, fun-seeking hunk. ☎ 71471

Hairy Top Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", buzzcut, stache, muscular hairy chest, 8" cut, poz, aggressive, passionate total top; you: GWM, attractive, under 45, slutty nasty bottomboy, eager to please horny daddy. ☎ 71488

Shut Up And Fuck
35 WM 5'10", 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk (48" ch 32" w 18" arms) wants good looking masculine men to pump or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 71489

Italian Guys!
I am looking for Italian guys of all types for fun, relationship, friendship or sex. If hung A+. If not, it's ok. Call ☎ 71443

Black And White XXX Sex & Fun!
GWM, 46, 5'11", 175, goodlooking, masculine, healthy, uninhibited, hung thick, HIV- bottom seeks GWM for hot J/O, video, nude beaches. Watch me beat my big thick meat. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71490

Lonely Asian
5'7", 135, uncut, smooth. Seeks GWM, fit, 25-40 for safe hot action. Desperately need pampering. ☎ 71491

Fist Fuck Bottom In Santa Rosa
Looking to meet FFT's in Sonoma County. Have hot hole will travel or come by. Be horny for some cool fist-fucking. Those with enthusiasm get my hole to use. ☎ 71462

Hungry For Muscle Worship
Need to engage in muscle fantasy. Worship with arrogant muscle goods. Me 30's, 220lb, 6'2" 190 bibble in shape. Want to be slave to b's only. All races. Lake Tahoe, Sac, S.F., Reno. Will travel. Age 25-45. ☎ 71492

A Great Sexual Relationship
Me: 6'2" 29y/o, 185lbs, attractive, gym toned, well endowed, top, HIV-, PBM You: 23-39y/o, 5'9" + HIV-, in good shape, attractive, single, a clean tight bottom. Any race, Bk or Puerto Rican A+. ☎ 71460

Submissive Man Wanted
Attr. Young looking active 70's GWM seeks gdlk'g 18-45 gay, bi, or straight (will teach) man for various fantasies: daddy-son, master-slave, pig boy, etc. ☎ 71464

East Bay White Male
ISO males, preferably EB, but all considered age/race open. I am healthy, mature, HIV-, 5'8", 155. Rob ☎ 71465

Covered In Body Hair?
Handsome, muscular GWM, 37, 5'11", 175, seeks men 30-50, height and weight in proportionate who are extremely hairy. (Thick hair covering your back, chest, arms, etc) for safe body rubbing. ☎ 71493

Hot Top Bi White Stud Needs
Weekday hot sex encounters in S.F. You must be slim. Smooth, Asian, & want to be 100% bottom for 100% top young stud. ☎ 71494

ISO Mouth And Throat Stretcher
If you have a really big, thick, juicy tool, I turn into a pig! Talk nasty to me while I gobble up your stud piece of meat. Extra thick, A+. ☎ 71495

Wanted Skinny Cocks-East Bay
For Greek and French fun. All the pleasure and much more comfortable. I'm 5'4", 130lbs, blk, br, HIV-, versatile. Have 1/2" uncut. All HIV- welcome. ☎ 71496

2 Tops 17" inches of Tol 4 Azn
We are GWM, 37, 5'10", 160#, 8" cut & GLM, 26, 5'9", 145#, 9" uncut. Both clean & both tops. Need Azn bottom boys in S.F. for daytime hot sex. ☎ 71497

White Tool 4 Asian Bottom Boys
Sexy hung 36y.o. clean stud with 8" cut tool is available in S.F. weekdays for this stud to be service by slim young Azn bottoms. ☎ 71498

Wrestling Buddies
Fit, good-looking 170lb. GWM seeks well-built G/B/WMs for frisky wrestling with a sensual edge. Trunks & tee, Speedos, and/or nude. Goal is kicks, not damage. Let's turn fantasies into reality! ☎ 71514

Glory Hole Connoisseur
Beautiful cock, delicious huge loads, 5'11", 180, blond/blue, all-american looking 32 yrs old male digs the glory hole scene. Facial hair big plus. Be clean, masculine, a talented cocksucker. ☎ 71516

I Like To Suck Cock And Get Fucked
GWM, HIV-, n/s n/d. I like to suck cock and play with ball's and ass. I like to get fucked, age no factor. Let's watch videos together, call. ☎ 71517

60 Yr Old Horn-Dog In Berkeley
ISO same for mutual back door bone fests hopefully on a routine basis. Only requirement, a working bone. ☎ 71518

Bodybuilder Phone Jo
Bodyworship, muscle sex, role play, orders, flexing, posing in jockstrap. Call with your fantasy and get off. 5'9", 195lb, 44ch, 16a. ☎ 71519

LESBIAN

Seeking Lesbian Couple
Professional gay couple (one American, one European), seeking lesbian couple (one American, one Foreigner) to share problems. ☎ 71521

FETISHES

Spread-Eagle
Need to be tied spread-eagle to your bed, to be played with, sensually tortured for long slow milkings while I writhe sweat, flex, moan for your enjoyment, mutual top. ☎ 71444

Thirsty Piss Pig
Insatiable appetite for piss & butt. GWM 37, 5'8", 130 gym toned with a mouth that can't get enough. Looking for GWM in good shape into satisfying my appetite. ☎ 71523

Extreme Raunch Action
Picking up on winos, derelicts & homeless studs? Looking for other masculine men into extreme raunch action, open to all scenes. ☎ 71446

Can You Suck Yourself?!
I want to watch you deep throat your cock. Throw your legs over your head and suck your hard cock. Flexible big cock self sucking exhibitionists needed. ☎ 71447

Spanking And Affection
GWM, 49, 5'10", 170, bearded + hairy into hot sensual, give + take spanking, kissing, cuddling. Jo seeks GWM under 50 for fun + friendship. ☎ 71448

Pit Buddy
6', 195, 40, healthy, looking for buddy who likes to have his pits serviced as much as I enjoy servicing them. Mutual greet, any age. Discreet, on-going or one time. ☎ 71449

Punch Your Hole
Young top seeks FFB into heavy duty piston punching and 2 hand hole stretching. Sleazy hole a must. A+ for facial hair, Latino. ☎ 71472

Cowboy Leather
Chaps, vest, hat, boots, spurs, crops, whips, gloves. Have a western fetish looking for men with same. ☎ 71473

Boot Licker
Let this boot licking dog show you the respect you need. -Get me on all 4's. You will enjoy it! ☎ 71499

Bootlicking Fetish
Older, generous guy seeks studs to age 40 who will allow him to lick and polish boots. Especially excited by military, police and cowboy attire. ☎ 71474

Young Slave For Dog Training
Very cute 26y.o. submissive boy from Eastern Europe wants to be fully trained as doggy by experienced demanding dog trainer under 36. Full satisfaction guaranteed. ☎ 71522

Cigar Smokin Dirty Talkin Top
GWM 5'10", 40's, hairy 32 waist, dark hair into nasty role playing-cop, with in-shape bottoms- uniforms suits A+. ☎ 71524

Velvet Lined Deep Throat
GWM-37-buzz cut-handsome HIV-available daytime and weekends for your pleasure. ISO-very masculine, HIV- (35-55)-top- too good to be true! ☎ 71525

Bottom Feeder For Ass Worship
Enjoy having your asshole and cock licked and sucked your way with all the accompanying ranch you want by an obedient worshipful bottom feeder. ☎ 71526

Spread That Crotch
Masculine, red head with uncut cock and low hanging balls, likes to eat ass, suck cock, into s&m. ☎ 71445

Butt Play Intern Needs Patient
For practice addition to tongue, fingers and toys + +. Must be able to follow directions. G.L. mature guy. 5'11" 175. ☎ 71527

Sniff My Butt
Cute buttplips for groomed, fit, gentlemen. Deepen your tongue! ☎ 71528

OTHERS

Pussy Videos
Invite me over to watch pussy videos with you. Pretend we're straight. Get so hot together. Get curious about what the other is doing. Start experiencing..... The younger the better. ☎ 71450

Only Decent, May Apply.
I like virile man to pose for me. To view you completely naked, not naughty, but natural. Older male cleric has artistic interest. Upper Haight. ☎ 71529

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

Divine Trash

◀ page 44

views with the cast, she laughs and says, "Cater- ing? I don't think I ever got so much as a baloney sandwich."

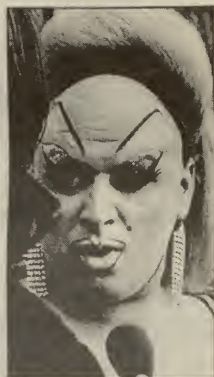
While food was at a minimum on the set, there was always plenty of speed and cigarettes to go around, recalls the cast. It was pot, rather than speed, however, that was the drug of choice for Waters and Divine. Yeager includes some risible footage of the pair looking very bored and stoned while waiting for Nazi the dog to do her business during the filming of the movie's infamous final scene. The cast and crew waited and waited for a dog that was quite literally scared shitless, before Nazi eventually had to be given an enema using a haircoloring applicator bottle. Finally, at the end of a long afternoon, Nazi shat, Divine scarfed, and Waters had perhaps his proudest cinematic moment.

Vile, anarchic, hilarious and so not-P.C., the climax of *Pink Flamingos* sums up the spirit of the early Waters oeuvre. What Waters was doing so brilliantly during this period was a very biting kind of social satire, asserts director David O. Russell (*Spanking the Monkey*) at one point during *Divine Trash*. Russell is just one of an impressive roster of filmmakers, critics and academics that Yeager enlists to expound upon Waters' importance as a director. One praises Waters' ability to "question bourgeois values in a way that's not pedantic," while another lauds his "consistent personal vision."

The adulation gets a bit thick at times, but fortunately, Yeager has former Maryland Censor Board Chair Mary Avara on hand to keep things from turning into a lovefest. The now 84-year-old Avara, a cranky, pious old bat who looks like she's right out of a John Waters movie herself, says of the director's films, "I had my own rating for them, R.T.—Real Trash!" To Waters, that's no doubt heady praise indeed. ▼

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Divine Trash runs Feb. 11-24 at the Roxie Cinema. For information, call 863-1087.



Filmmaker Steve Yeager interviewing Divine

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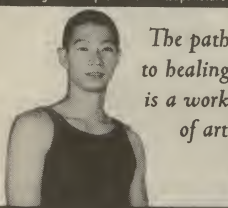
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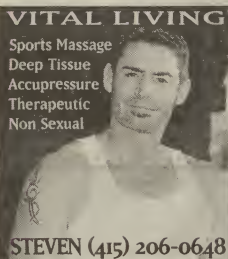


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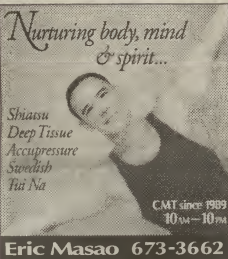
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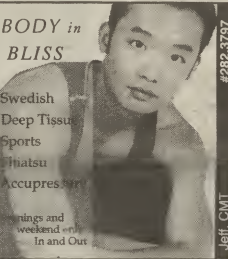
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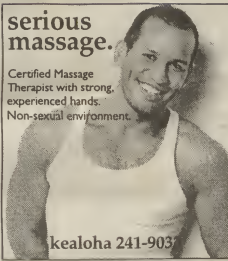
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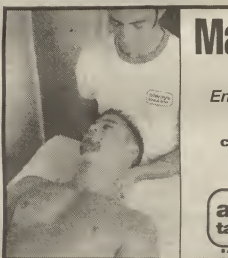
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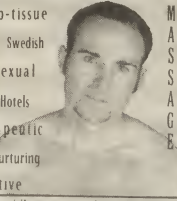
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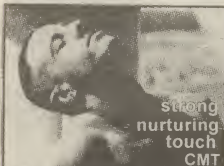


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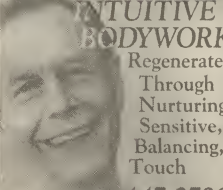


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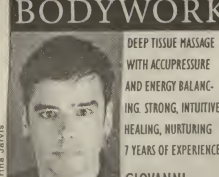
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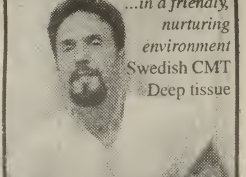
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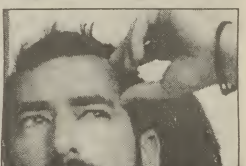
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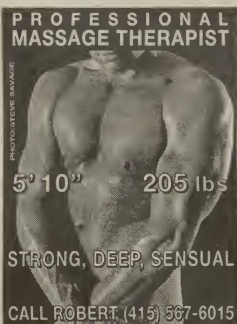
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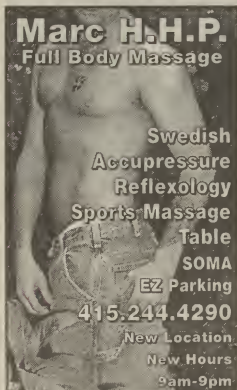
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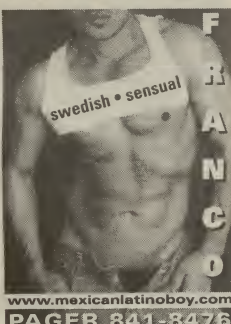
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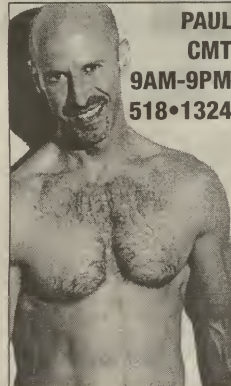
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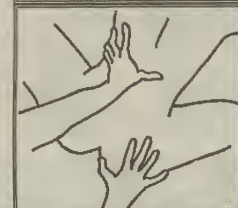
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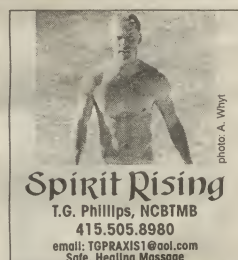
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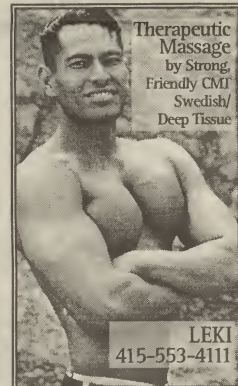
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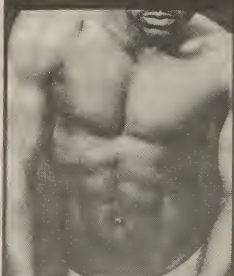
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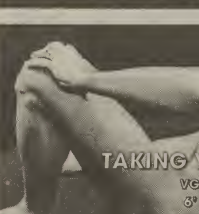
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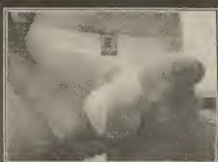
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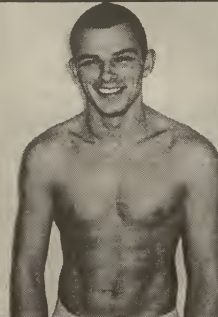
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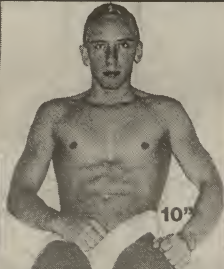
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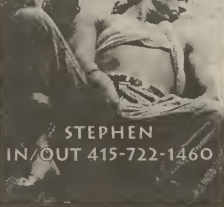
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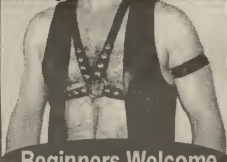
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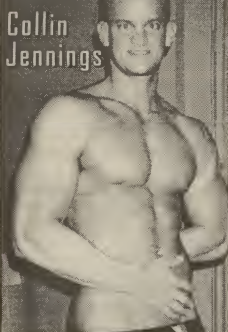
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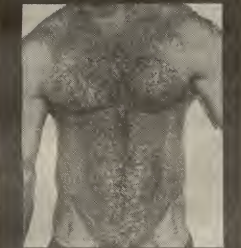
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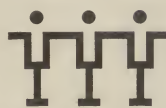
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